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# Languages in Canada

## C F O C U S O N A N A D A



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**Focus on Canada**

## **Languages in Canada**

**By: Brian Harrison  
Louise Marmen**

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## Preface

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**Focus on Canada** is a series of publications portraying the people of Canada. The portrait is drawn through the analysis of the data collected by the 1991 Census of Population and Housing. Each publication examines a specific issue and provides a demographic, social, cultural and economic perspective.

The authors of this series have taken special care to make their analysis informative and easy to read. They make use of descriptive graphs and data tables to more clearly illustrate the information. Often the results are compared to previous censuses, showing how Canada and Canadians have changed over time.

The publications were prepared by analysts at Statistics Canada, and reviewed by peers from within the Agency as well as experts from external organizations. I would like to extend my thanks to all the contributors for their role in producing this useful and interesting publication.

I would like to express my appreciation to the millions of Canadians who completed their questionnaires on June 4, 1991. Statistics Canada is very pleased to be able to now provide this summary of the results. I hope you enjoy reading this study – and the others in this series.

Ivan P. Fellegi  
Chief Statistician of Canada

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## Highlights

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- The linguistic make-up of Canada has been greatly influenced by immigration, which increased the number of Canadians with a non-official language as mother tongue in the short term and led to growth in the Anglophone population in the longer term.
- The percentage of Canadians with English mother tongue changed very little between 1951 and 1991 (staying at about 60%). However, in Quebec, Anglophones declined from 14% to 9% of the population.
- Canadians with French mother tongue declined from 29% to 24% of the population between 1951 and 1991. In Quebec, their proportion remained fairly stable at just over 80% of the population, while outside Quebec they declined from 7% to 5%.
- The percentage of Canadians able to speak French remained at about 32% between 1951 and 1991, while those able to speak English rose slightly to reach 83% by 1991.
- Canadians with a non-official language as mother tongue represented 15% of the population in 1991, up from 12% in 1951.
- The non-official languages reported as mother tongue changed considerably over the forty-year period. Ukrainian and German were replaced by Italian and Chinese as the most frequently reported mother tongues.
- Among the non-official languages that Canadians can speak, Italian, German, Chinese and Spanish are by far the most common, with Spanish the most frequently learned second language.
- English-French bilingualism rose markedly in Canada between 1951 and 1991. The number of bilingual Canadians more than doubled during the period, rising from 1.7 million to 4.4 million, while the proportion rose from 12% to 16%.



## Introduction

---

In Canada, two large official language groups represent about 85% of the population. There are also numerous other language groups, none of which represents more than two percent of Canadians. Both geography – 5,500 km (3,400 miles) from coast to coast – and history play an important role in understanding the language situation.

Because they live in different parts of the country, many Anglophones have little contact with the French-speaking population and many Francophones would seldom encounter an Anglophone. The location of the French mother tongue population reflects the early settlement of the French in New France and their low propensity to migrate to other provinces. Francophones are located mostly in Quebec and the neighbouring provinces of New Brunswick and Ontario. Only four percent of Francophones live in other provinces and territories.

If we look at Canadians as a whole, we find that the language that most (83%) of them can speak is English, followed by French which about one-third (32%) of the population can speak. About one in six Canadians (16%) speak both official languages, according to the 1991 Census. Those who live in areas where the two language groups are in close proximity have a far greater tendency to speak both English and French. For example, 48% of the population in the Montreal metropolitan area and 43% of the population of Ottawa-Hull can speak the two official languages.

The Canadian population also shows a high level of linguistic diversity-18% are able to speak a language other than English or French. The fact that almost one in five Canadians can speak a non-official language is largely explained by the high proportion of immigrants in the country. In Canada, 16% of the population consists of immigrants, compared to 8% in the United States. Those able to speak a language other than English or French tend to be concentrated in large urban areas.

How has the language situation evolved in Canada over the last four decades? What factors determine the size of language groups in Canada and the tendency of languages to grow or decline? These are two of the principal questions dealt with in this analysis.



Chapter 1 covers the evolution of the English language in Canada between 1951 and 1991, including the size and distribution of the English mother tongue population, the use of English as home language and knowledge of English among the Canadian population. While the English mother tongue group grew considerably outside Quebec, the number and percentage of Anglophones in Quebec declined markedly between 1971 and 1991. Fewer than one Quebecer in ten (9%) reported their mother tongue as English at the time of the 1991 Census. Chapter 2 examines changes in the French language group and the French language. While the number of Francophones increased considerably during the forty years covered in this analysis, the proportion of Canadians with French mother tongue declined. Outside Quebec, the proportion declined from 7% to 5%, though the number increased by more than 250,000. Chapter 3 explores the growth and decline of various non-official languages in Canada. Largely influenced by different waves of immigrants coming to the country, the language composition of this population has changed considerably since the 1950s.

Chapter 4 examines the growth in the number and percentage of Canadians who speak both official languages. English Canadians have a greater tendency to speak French than in the past. French Canadians, who have a much greater tendency to speak both languages than their Anglophone counterparts, also experienced growth in bilingualism. Other important topics related to language are also discussed in this chapter, including the increase in numbers of Canadians who speak neither English nor French, and the way languages figure in various aspects of Canadians lives. Chapter 5 analyses the main factors which have contributed to changes in the language situation in Canada. The balance of these factors has changed markedly over the forty years covered in this study, with immigration playing a vital role in the most recent decade.

# Chapter 1

## The English Language

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The 1991 Census showed that 22.5 million Canadians could speak English (83%), 18.4 million spoke English most often at home (68%) and 16.3 million had English mother tongue (60%).

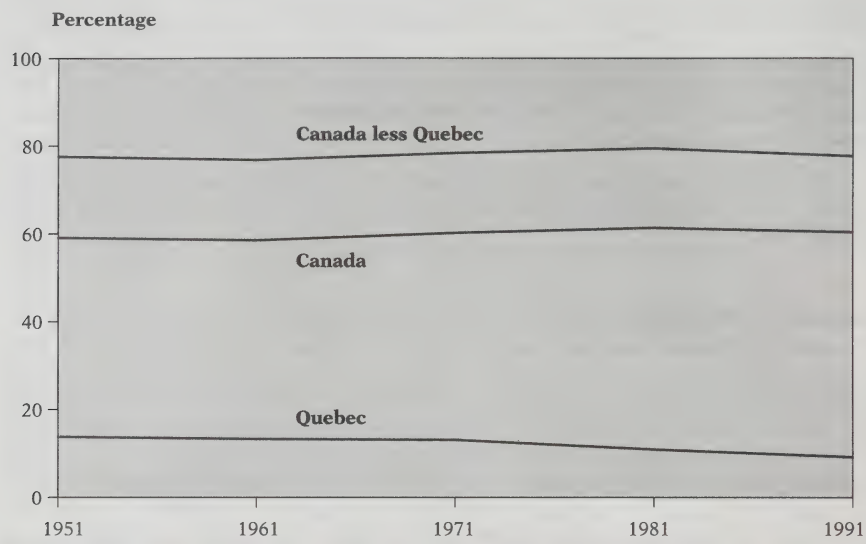
### English Mother Tongue

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Mother Tongue is defined as the first language a person learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census.

The percentage of the population which had English as its mother tongue changed very little over the forty-year period between 1951 and 1991. The figures for the most recent decade show a slight decline in the percentage of Anglophones in Canada. Without the heavy immigration to Canada of many people with a language other than English or French as mother tongue, an increase in the proportion of Anglophones would have occurred.

**Chart 1.1**  
**Percentage with English Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less**  
**Quebec, 1951-1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.1.

In Quebec, the proportion of Anglophones has declined continuously, dropping from 14% in 1951 to 9% in 1991. This has resulted largely from the English mother tongue population leaving Quebec to live in other Canadian provinces, particularly during the 1970s.

While the proportion of Anglophones in Canada changed very little in the forty-year period, the number grew in each decade, almost doubling from 8.3 million in 1951 to 16.3 million in 1991. However, the pattern was very different in Quebec, where there was an increase of about 230,000 in the first two decades, followed by a decline of about 160,000. The net effect was only a slight increase in the number of Quebec Anglophones by 1991.



**Table 1.1**  
**Population with English Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less**  
**Quebec, 1951-1991**

	Canada		Quebec		Canada less Quebec	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
1951	8,280.8	59.1	558.3	13.8	7,722.6	77.6
1961	10,660.5	58.5	697.4	13.3	9,963.1	76.8
1971	12,973.8	60.2	789.2	13.1	12,184.6	78.4
1981	14,784.8	61.4	693.6	10.9	14,091.2	79.5
1991	16,311.2	60.4	626.2	9.2	15,685.0	77.7

Source: Appendix Table A.1.

Why did the number of Anglophones in Canada double between 1951 and 1991? The most rapid growth occurred during the 1950s and 1960s, when women of child bearing ages had a much higher level of fertility than those in the two subsequent decades. The English mother tongue group also grew considerably through immigration. Of all the immigrants who settled in Canada between 1981 and 1991 (and who were still in Canada at the time of the 1991 Census), 25% had English as their mother tongue. In addition, the children of immigrants often learn English as mother tongue.

Between provinces, the percentage of Anglophones varies considerably. New Brunswick has a large proportion in each of the two official language groups (34% Francophone), while Quebec is largely Francophone with the Anglophone population representing less than 10%. The three most eastern provinces have very high percentages of people whose mother tongue is English (more than 90%). Ontario and the western provinces, where more immigrants have settled, have larger populations with non-official languages as mother tongue. This accounts for the lower percentages of Anglophones.

Though the number of Anglophones increased in all provinces except Newfoundland and Quebec between 1981 and 1991, the proportion dropped in some provinces. The decline, slight in most cases, was largely attributable to the arrival of immigrants with a mother tongue other than English.

**Table 1.2**  
**Population with English Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,784.8</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>16,311.2</b>	<b>60.4</b>
Newfoundland	557.0	98.8	555.9	98.6
Prince Edward Island	114.1	94.1	120.8	94.3
Nova Scotia	786.7	93.7	831.6	93.3
New Brunswick	448.9	65.1	462.9	64.6
Quebec	693.6	10.9	626.2	9.2
Ontario	6,612.0	77.5	7,443.5	74.6
Manitoba	731.5	72.2	793.3	73.5
Saskatchewan	767.1	80.2	812.6	83.3
Alberta	1,800.9	81.4	2,045.9	81.2
British Columbia	2,228.2	82.1	2,562.2	78.9
Yukon	20.2	87.5	24.6	88.7
Northwest Territories	24.6	54.1	31.7	55.2
Canada less Quebec	14,091.2	79.5	15,685.0	77.7

Source: Appendix Table A.1.

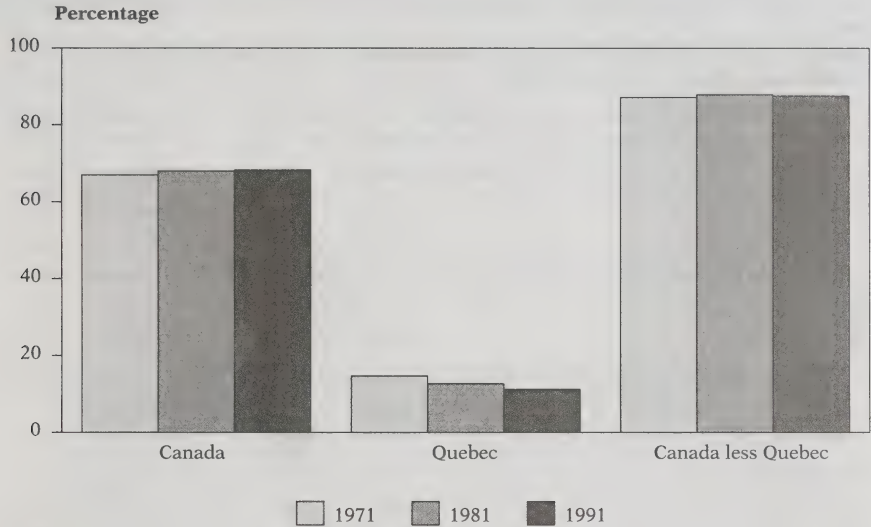
Canadians with an English mother tongue make up a very large percentage of the population in all provinces except Quebec, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. In Quebec, where those with English as their mother tongue comprise 9% of the population, almost three quarters live in the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area. In New Brunswick, the English mother tongue population is concentrated in the southern part of the province, while in the Northwest Territories, Anglophones are concentrated in Yellowknife. Inuktitut is the mother tongue of about one third of the people living in the Northwest Territories.

## English Home Language

Home Language means the language most often spoken at home at the time of the census.

Since 1971, Statistics Canada has collected data on the home language of Canadians. These data, when combined with the data on mother tongue, provide an indication of the degree to which various languages are growing or declining.

**Chart 1.2**  
**Percentage with English Home Language, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1971, 1981 and 1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.2.

Results from the 1991 Census showed that for Canada as a whole, 68% of the population speaks English most often at home, compared to 11% in Quebec. Outside Quebec, almost nine out of ten Canadians speak English most often at home. The percentage of the Canadian population with English as its home language rose slightly, from 67% to 68% between 1971 and 1991. However, in Quebec, the proportion of the population with English as its home language declined from 15% to 11% over the same twenty-year period. This decline is largely attributable to Anglophones leaving Quebec in the 1970s and 1980s.

In every province, there are more people with English as their home language than with English as their mother tongue, reflecting a shift toward English by people from other language groups.

The number of people with English as their home language rose in every province except Quebec, where the decline is attributable to Anglophones leaving the province. The percentage that speak English most often at home increased in every province except the three largest and in Newfoundland. The percentages in Ontario and British Columbia declined as a result of immigration by people who speak non-official languages. This affects the proportion speaking English, since it increases the proportion that converses in other languages.

**Table 1.3**  
**Population with English Home Language, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16,375.3</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>18,440.5</b>	<b>68.3</b>
Newfoundland	559.4	99.2	559.5	99.2
Prince Edward Island	117.0	96.5	124.6	97.3
Nova Scotia	806.5	96.0	858.1	96.3
New Brunswick	468.1	67.9	488.6	68.2
Quebec	806.8	12.7	761.8	11.2
Ontario	7,310.1	85.7	8,499.5	85.2
Manitoba	868.3	85.7	947.1	87.7
Saskatchewan	884.8	92.5	921.1	94.4
Alberta	2,024.1	91.4	2,305.2	91.5
British Columbia	2,479.6	91.4	2,909.9	89.6
Yukon	22.1	95.7	26.7	96.7
Northwest Territories	28.7	63.0	38.4	66.8
Canada less Quebec	15,568.5	87.9	17,678.7	87.6

Source: Appendix Table A.2.

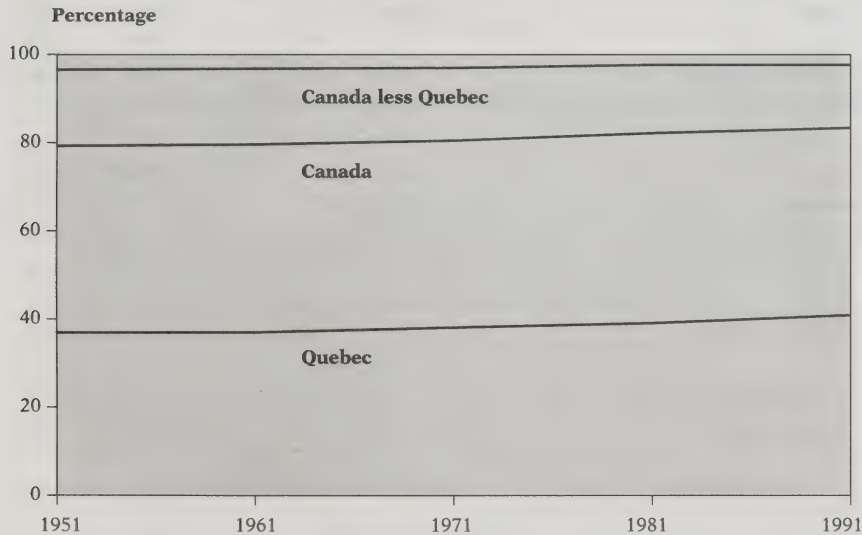


# Knowledge of English

In the census, knowledge of English and/or French was determined by a question about the ability to conduct a conversation in one or both languages. It should be noted that this question measured language knowledge rather than actual use of the language.

While about 16% of the population of Canada speaks both English and French, most Canadians speak only one or the other. Some, mostly immigrants, speak neither of the official languages. The percentage of the population able to speak English grew between 1951 and 1991 both inside and outside Quebec. In 1991, 98% of people living outside Quebec and 41% of Quebecers were able to conduct a conversation in English.

**Chart 1.3**  
**Knowledge of English, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.3.

Both the number and the percentage of Canadians able to speak English rose between 1981 and 1991. During the decade, numbers of English speakers increased in all provinces except Newfoundland (where there was little change in the size of the provincial population), and the percentages able to conduct a conversation in English increased in New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. Declines in percentages of English speakers in the populations of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia were largely due to the arrival of new immigrants who were unable to speak English. Despite this decline, the number of English speakers in each of the provinces actually increased. The most significant increase was in Ontario, home of 43% of Canada's English-speaking population -- where 1.4 million more English speakers joined the population in the ten-year period.

**Table 1.4**  
**Population Able to Speak English, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>19,804.9</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>22,505.4</b>	<b>83.4</b>
Newfoundland	563.2	99.9	562.9	99.8
Prince Edward Island	121.0	99.8	127.7	99.7
Nova Scotia	837.1	99.7	888.3	99.7
New Brunswick	599.6	87.0	626.5	87.4
Quebec	2,491.3	39.1	2,786.7	40.9
Ontario	8,325.5	97.6	9,729.9	97.5
Manitoba	995.8	98.2	1,063.9	98.6
Saskatchewan	948.6	99.2	969.9	99.4
Alberta	2,187.5	98.8	2,486.1	98.7
British Columbia	2,673.1	98.5	3,183.5	98.0
Yukon	23.0	99.8	27.6	99.8
Northwest Territories	39.1	86.0	52.4	91.2
Canada less Quebec	17,313.5	97.7	19,718.7	97.7

Source: Calculated from Appendix Table A.3.

# Chapter 2

## The French Language

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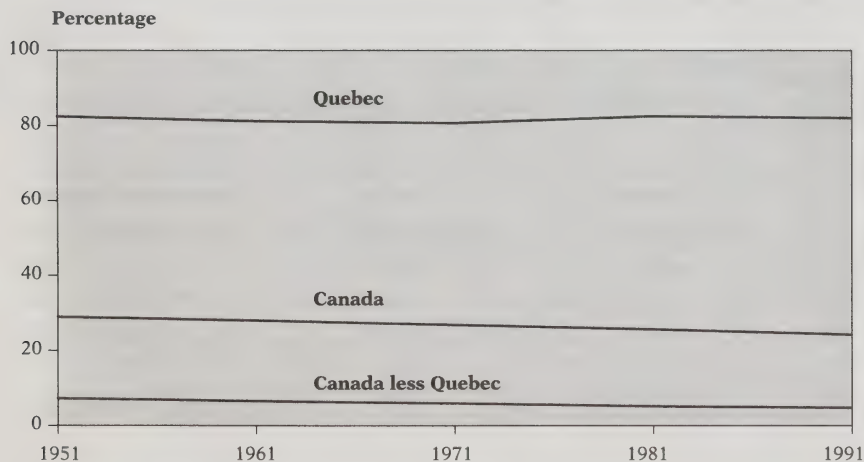
The 1991 Census showed that 8.5 million Canadians could conduct a conversation in French (32%), 6.3 million spoke French most often at home (23%) and 6.6 million had French as their mother tongue (24%).

### French Mother Tongue

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Although the number of persons with French as their mother tongue has continued to increase in Canada, their proportion has declined over the last forty years. Between 1951 and 1991, the number of Francophones rose from 4.1 million to 6.6 million, but the proportion of Francophones in the population fell from 29% to 24%.

**Chart 2.1**  
**Percentage with French Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.1.

The proportional decline is explained largely by the heavy immigration of people whose mother tongue was a language other than French. For example, of the 819,300 immigrants enumerated in the 1991 Census as having arrived in Canada over the five previous years, only 3% had French as a mother tongue.

In the past, the high fertility rate of Francophone women in Canada offset the impact of immigration from other countries on the distribution of language groups. With a fertility higher than that of Anglophones, Francophones made up a steady 30% or so of the Canadian population for many years. Since the 1960s, though, the fertility rate of Francophone Canadian women has declined, so much so that their fertility level was lower than that of Anglophone Canadian women for the two decades prior to 1991.

Outside Quebec, children of parents with a French mother tongue sometimes learn English rather than French in early childhood. The transmission of French mother tongue is not assured, particularly when one of the parents has English as a mother tongue. The size and proportion of the Francophone population are affected by this phenomenon.

Quebec is the only province in which the majority of the population has French as its mother tongue. In 1991, 85% of Francophones in Canada lived in Quebec. They accounted for 82% of the Quebec population. Although their number rose from 3.3 million in 1951 to 5.6 million in 1991, their proportion changed very little during that time. After decreasing between 1951 and 1971 due to both the decrease in the fertility of Francophone women and heavy immigration, the proportion of Francophones reverted to the 1951 level in the decades that followed. The proportion of Francophones rose as Anglophones left Quebec and moved to other provinces.

Outside Quebec, the Francophone population grew by 250,000 between 1951 and 1991, but the proportion of Francophones declined further in each decade.

**Table 2.1**  
**Population with French Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**

	Canada		Quebec		Canada less Quebec	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
1951	4,068.8	29.0	3,347.0	82.5	721.8	7.3
1961	5,123.2	28.1	4,269.7	81.2	853.5	6.6
1971	5,793.6	26.9	4,867.2	80.7	926.4	6.0
1981	6,177.8	25.7	5,254.2	82.5	923.6	5.2
1991	6,562.1	24.3	5,585.6	82.0	976.4	4.8

Source: Appendix Table A.1.



The situation of Francophones varies widely from province to province. Quebec is the province with the highest proportion of persons whose mother tongue is French, followed by New Brunswick. It is in the latter province and in Ontario that approximately three quarters of Francophones living outside Quebec are found. Since its entry into Confederation in 1949, Newfoundland's provincial population has always had the smallest proportion and lowest number of Francophones.

Over the decade between 1981 and 1991, the population with French as its mother tongue and the proportion of the population made up by that group has fallen in Prince Edward Island and the Prairie provinces. In nearly all of the other provinces and the Northwest Territories, the number of Francophones has grown while their proportion has remained the same or decreased. Only in New Brunswick and the Yukon have both the number and the proportion of Francophones in the population increased.

**Table 2.2**  
**Population with French Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

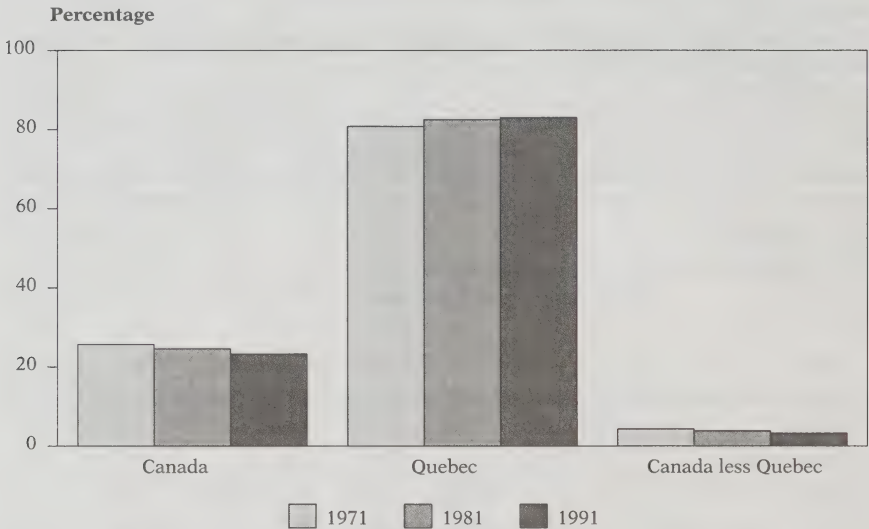
	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6, 177.8</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>6,562.1</b>	<b>24.3</b>
Newfoundland	2.6	0.5	2.9	0.5
Prince Edward Island	5.8	4.8	5.7	4.5
Nova Scotia	35.4	4.2	37.5	4.2
New Brunswick	232.0	33.6	243.7	34.0
Quebec	5,254.2	82.5	5,585.6	82.0
Ontario	465.3	5.5	503.3	5.0
Manitoba	51.6	5.1	50.8	4.7
Saskatchewan	25.1	2.6	21.8	2.2
Alberta	60.6	2.7	56.7	2.3
British Columbia	43.4	1.6	51.6	1.6
Yukon	0.5	2.3	0.9	3.3
Northwest Territories	1.2	2.7	1.5	2.5
Canada less Quebec	923.6	5.2	976.4	4.8

Source: Appendix Table A.1.

# French Home Language

The number of Canadians who speak French most often at home is growing: there were 6.3 million in 1991, compared with 5.5 million in 1971. However, the relative importance of French home language in the country as a whole has decreased, falling from 26% in 1971 to 23% in 1991. In Quebec, the number and proportion of persons with French as a home language increased between 1971 and 1991, while the situation was the reverse in the rest of Canada.

**Chart 2.2**  
**Percentage with French Home Language, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1971, 1981 and 1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.2.

In all the provinces and territories except Quebec, the number of persons with French as a mother tongue was greater than the number of persons with French as a home language. Thus, in the provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, up to three times as many people reported having French as a mother tongue than reported French as a home language in 1991. In Newfoundland, Manitoba, Alberta and the territories, less than half of the

Francophones spoke French most often at home. In the other provinces, the fraction was higher. It is really only in New Brunswick that the vast majority of Francophones seem to retain their mother tongue as their home language. In 1991, 34% of the population of New Brunswick had French as a mother tongue and 31% had French as a home language. These persons lived mainly in the northern and eastern parts of the province.

In Quebec, French, the mother tongue of the majority, is likely to be spoken most often at home by Francophones, and by certain persons in other language groups. Thus, in 1991 the proportion of Quebecers who spoke French most often at home (83%) was larger than that of Quebecers who reported French as mother tongue (82%).

Comparing the situation for French as a home language in 1991 with that in 1981 reveals a decrease in the number and proportion of people with French as a home language in almost all provinces and territories. Only Quebec and the Yukon Territory showed an increase in both; New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories registered an increase in the number only.

**Table 2.3**  
**Population with French Home Language, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

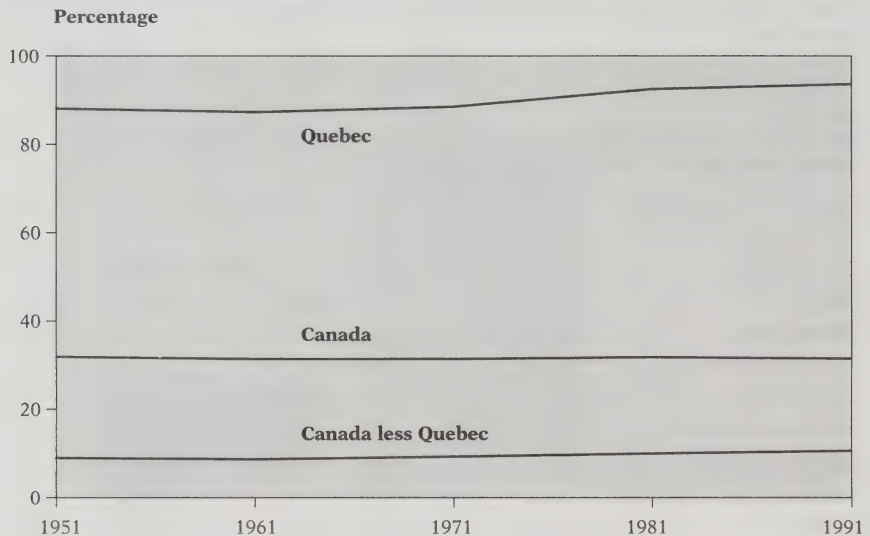
	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5,919.9</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>6,288.4</b>	<b>23.3</b>
Newfoundland	1.8	0.3	1.3	0.2
Prince Edward Island	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.4
Nova Scotia	24.4	2.9	22.3	2.5
New Brunswick	216.7	31.4	223.3	31.2
Quebec	5,253.1	82.5	5,651.8	83.0
Ontario	333.0	3.9	318.7	3.2
Manitoba	31.0	3.1	25.0	2.3
Saskatchewan	10.3	1.1	7.2	0.7
Alberta	29.7	1.3	20.2	0.8
British Columbia	15.1	0.6	14.6	0.4
Yukon	0.2	1.0	0.4	1.4
Northwest Territories	0.6	1.4	0.7	1.2
Canada less Quebec	666.8	3.8	636.6	3.2

Source: Appendix Table A.2.

# Knowledge of French

Despite the decline in the proportion of persons with French as a mother tongue or home language, the proportion of French speakers remained fairly stable (around 32%) between 1951 and 1991. The number of persons able to conduct a conversation in French nearly doubled during this period, rising from 4.5 million to 8.5 million. In Quebec, as well as the other provinces and the territories, the proportion and number of persons in the population who know French has grown continuously since 1961.

**Chart 2.3**  
**Knowledge of French, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.3.

Persons who know French are strongly concentrated in Quebec. In 1991, some 75% of them lived in that province. However, since 1961 the concentration has declined. The decline is attributed to the increase in bilingualism among non-Francophones and has occurred despite the marked increase in the number of French speakers in the Quebec population. Over twenty years – that is, between 1971 and 1991 – the proportion of the population outside Quebec able to speak French among people with a mother tongue other



than French rose from 6% to 10%. The popularity of second-language programmes (immersion or regular courses) in English-language public schools has contributed to this increase.

In all provinces and the Yukon, between 1981 and 1991 an increase was observed in the number and proportion of persons able to conduct a conversation in French. In the Northwest Territories, the number of such persons increased and their proportion in the population remained constant.

**Table 2.4**  
**Population Able to Speak French, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7,669.2</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>8,509.0</b>	<b>31.5</b>
Newfoundland	13.0	2.3	18.7	3.3
Prince Edward Island	10.0	8.2	13.2	10.3
Nova Scotia	64.2	7.6	78.0	8.8
New Brunswick	271.9	39.4	301.0	42.0
Quebec	5,891.7	92.5	6,371.9	93.6
Ontario	985.0	11.5	1,190.5	11.9
Manitoba	82.6	8.1	100.7	9.3
Saskatchewan	44.4	4.6	51.2	5.3
Alberta	146.2	6.6	169.1	6.7
British Columbia	155.6	5.7	208.3	6.4
Yukon	1.8	7.9	2.6	9.4
Northwest Territories	2.8	6.2	3.6	6.2
Canada less Quebec	1,777.5	10.0	2,137.0	10.6

Source: Calculated from Appendix Table A.3.



# Chapter

## 3

### **The Non-official Languages**

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The presence of languages other than English or French in Canada reflects the ethnic and linguistic diversity that characterizes the nation. The 1991 Census showed that 5.0 million Canadians (18 %) could speak a language other than English or French, some 2.3 million (8%) spoke a non-official language most often at home and 4.1 million (15%) had a non-official language as mother tongue.

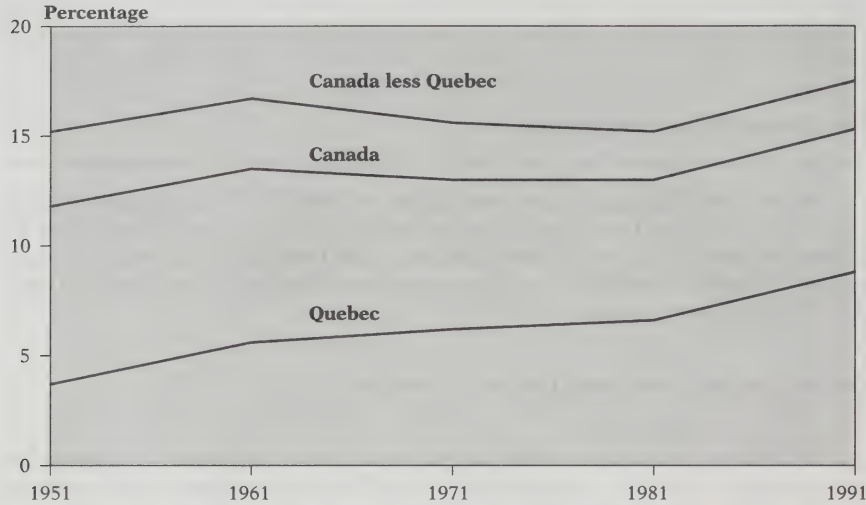
### **Mother Tongue Other than English or French**

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The percentage with a non-official language as a mother tongue rose both inside and outside Quebec in the forty years between 1951 and 1991, largely because of the number of immigrants during this period coupled with an increase in the tendency of immigrants to come from countries where languages other than English or French are spoken.

**Chart 3.1**

**Percentage with Mother Tongue Other than English or French, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.1.

In Canada, the percentage of the population with a non-official language as a mother tongue rose from 12% in 1951 to 15% in 1991. In provinces outside Quebec, people with a non-official language as a mother tongue represented 17% of the population, up from 15% in 1951. The presence of non-official languages in Quebec changed considerably over the four decades, rising from only 4% of the population in 1951 to 9% in 1991.

**Table 3.1**

**Population with Mother Tongue Other than English or French, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**

	Canada		Quebec		Canada less Quebec	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
1951	1,659.8	11.8	150.4	3.7	1,509.4	15.2
1961	2,454.6	13.5	292.1	5.6	2,162.4	16.7
1971	2,800.8	13.0	371.3	6.2	2,429.5	15.6
1981	3,120.9	13.0	421.3	6.6	2,699.6	15.2
1991	4,120.8	15.3	598.5	8.8	3,522.3	17.5

Source: Appendix Table A.1.

The number of people in Canada with a language other than English or French as a mother tongue rose considerably between 1951 and 1991. From 1.7 million in 1951, the number grew in every decade. This was most notable during the 1950s when a large number of immigrants from European countries made their way to Canada, and during the 1980s when immigration from Asia and the Caribbean was a major catalyst for linguistic diversity. In Quebec, the number with a non-official language as mother tongue rose from 150,000 to 600,000. In the provinces outside Quebec, the number rose from 1.5 million to 3.5 million.

Between 1981 and 1991, the number of Canadians with a non-official language as a mother tongue rose in every province except Saskatchewan. The largest increase was in Ontario, where the number of people with a language other than English or French as a mother tongue rose by more than half a million, to represent one in five Ontarians (2 million people). Much of the increase resulted from the arrival of new immigrants in Toronto.

Percentages of populations with a non-official language as a mother tongue declined in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where German and Ukrainian groups have formed the bulk of third-language groups in the past. Conversely, the percentage has increased in provinces that have received more recent immigrants, particularly in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. Both the Yukon and Northwest Territories experienced slight decreases in the proportion of their populations with a non-official language as mother tongue between 1981 and 1991.



**Table 3.2**

**Population with Mother Tongue Other than English or French, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,120.9</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>4,120.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>
Newfoundland	4.1	0.7	5.1	0.9
Prince Edward Island	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.2
Nova Scotia	17.7	2.1	21.8	2.5
New Brunswick	8.5	1.2	9.9	1.4
Quebec	421.3	6.6	598.5	8.8
Ontario	1,456.9	17.1	2,030.2	20.3
Manitoba	230.6	22.7	235.3	21.8
Saskatchewan	164.2	17.2	141.6	14.5
Alberta	352.2	15.9	416.6	16.5
British Columbia	442.0	16.3	633.7	19.5
Yukon	2.4	10.2	2.2	8.0
Northwest Territories	19.7	43.2	24.3	42.3
Canada less Quebec	2,699.6	15.2	3,522.3	17.5

Source: Appendix Table A.1.

Interestingly, those with a non-official language as a mother tongue form only a very small percentage of the population in the eastern provinces. In fact, only a small percentage of immigrants to Canada take up residence east of Montreal. The location of people with a non-official language as mother tongue is largely a reflection of immigration patterns.

There is also a small percentage of the population in Quebec (9% in 1991), which has a non-official language as a mother tongue compared with other large provinces. This also reflects traditional patterns which have resulted in a disproportionate number of immigrants going elsewhere. While 25% of Canada's population is located in Quebec, only 14% of the immigrants are living there, according to the 1991 Census.

The percentage of the population with a mother tongue other than English or French varies considerably from one census metropolitan area (CMA) to another. Of Canada's 25 CMAs, Toronto had the largest percentage (33%). Vancouver was second with 28%, followed by Winnipeg with 21%. Slightly over half (55%) of the population that reported having a non-official language as a mother tongue lived in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

**Table 3.3**  
**Population with Mother Tongue Other than English or French, Census**  
**Metropolitan Areas, 1991**

Census Metropolitan Area	1991	
	Number ('000)	Percent
Calgary	130.6	17.4
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	0.7	0.4
Edmonton	164.5	19.8
Halifax	11.3	3.6
Hamilton	115.3	19.4
Kitchener	69.6	19.7
London	53.4	14.2
Montréal	531.1	17.2
Oshawa	25.1	10.5
Ottawa-Hull	109.3	12.0
Québec	8.9	1.4
Regina	21.5	11.4
Saint John (New Brunswick)	1.8	1.5
Saskatoon	29.2	14.1
Sherbrooke	3.2	2.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	54.1	15.0
St. John's (Newfoundland)	2.2	1.3
Sudbury	14.3	9.2
Thunder Bay	21.3	17.4
Toronto	1,290.0	33.4
Trois-Rivières	1.0	0.7
Vancouver	436.1	27.5
Victoria	29.7	10.5
Windsor	49.5	19.1
Winnipeg	135.6	21.0

Source: Calculated from Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data*.  
1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-333, Table 3.

The sizes of language groups other than English and French reflect, in part, the most recent immigration patterns. Thus, the non-official languages reported most frequently as

mother tongues in Canada have changed considerably over the years. In 1951, Ukrainian was the most frequently reported non-official language among Canadians, with those reporting German as a mother tongue a close second. By 1991, the Ukrainian mother tongue group had declined in numbers from 352,000 to 201,000 and to fifth place in the list of languages. While the German mother tongue group increased in numbers between 1951 and 1971, it declined both in numbers and rank to third in the list of mother tongues, after being the most frequently reported language in 1971.

At the same time, the number with Italian as a mother tongue rose substantially, from less than 100,000 in 1951 to 538,000 in 1971, maintaining at about this level for the 1991 Census. The large jump in those with Italian mother tongue between 1951 and 1971 reflects considerable immigration from Italy during this period. The most recent twenty-year period has witnessed a rapid growth in the number of Canadians with Chinese as a mother tongue. This growth, largely due to immigration during the 1980s, has seen the Chinese mother tongue group grow in a fashion similar to the Italian group before it, from 95,000 in 1971 to 517,000 in 1991.

**Table 3.4**  
**Main Mother Tongues Other than English or French, Canada, 1951, 1971 and 1991**

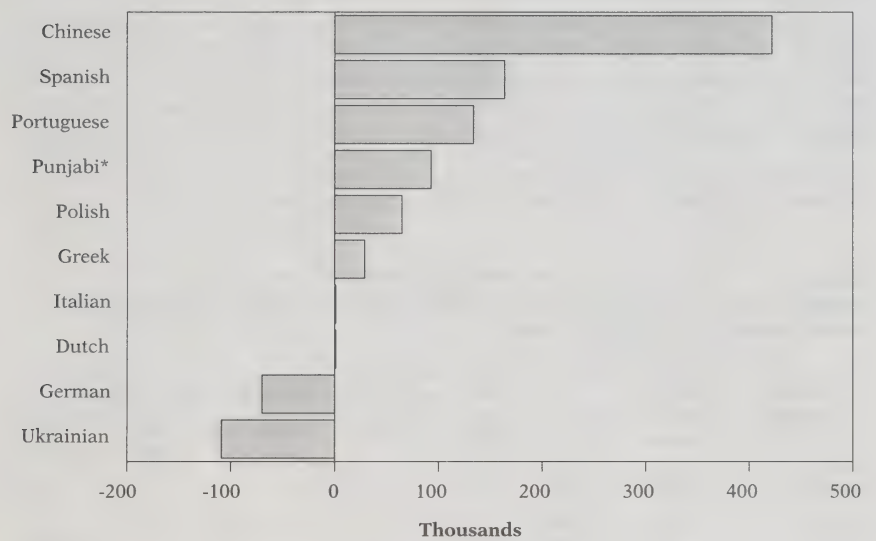
Rank	1951		1971		1991	
1	Ukrainian	352.3	German	561.1	Italian	538.7
2	German	329.3	Italian	538.4	Chinese	516.9
3	Polish	129.2	Ukrainian	309.9	German	490.6
4	Yiddish	103.6	Dutch	144.9	Portuguese	220.6
5	Italian	92.2	Polish	134.8	Ukrainian	201.3
6	Dutch	87.9	Greek	104.5	Polish	200.4
7	Czech & Slovak	45.5	Chinese	94.9	Spanish	187.6
8	Norwegian	43.8	Portuguese	86.9	Punjabi	147.3
9	Magyar (Hungarian)	42.4	Magyar (Hungarian)	86.8	Dutch	146.4
10	Russian	39.2	Croatian, Serbian, etc	74.2	Greek	133.0

Note: In 1951 and 1971, Dutch includes some respondents who reported Flemish and Frisian.

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue*. 1971 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-725, Table 17.  
 Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-333, Table 2.

Other language groups that appear high on the list of non-official languages in 1991 have also grown because of immigration. Thus, the Portuguese, Spanish and Punjabi groups grew considerably in the twenty-year period prior to 1991. The Polish group has also increased its numbers markedly from 135,000 in 1971 to 200,000 in 1991, principally due to immigration during the 1980s. The Dutch and Greek language groups have maintained (or slightly increased) their numbers since 1971, but their positions among the non-official languages have declined to ninth and tenth respectively.

**Chart 3.2**  
**Change in Size of the 10 Largest Non-official Language Groups, Canada, 1971-1991**



\* No data available for Punjabi in 1971. Data from the 1981 Census were used for this language.

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue*. 1971 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-725, Table 17.  
Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-333, Table 2.

While the 1991 Census showed that many Canadians know such languages as Chinese, Italian and German, the population reporting non-official languages lived mostly in major

urban centres. This largely reflects recent patterns of immigration, which have resulted in immigrants locating in the major census metropolitan areas, and particularly in the three largest – Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Toronto is the largest centre for populations with a non-official language as mother tongue. It holds substantial concentrations of most groups, excepting German, Ukrainian and Dutch. Toronto has 43% of Canada's Italian, 40% of the Chinese and 51% of the Portuguese mother tongue groups, and a large percentage of Canada's Polish, Spanish, Greek and Punjabi populations. Montreal, which is home to a much smaller percentage of the non-official language populations than Toronto, has a fairly large proportion of the Italian, Spanish, and Greek mother tongue groups. Large percentages of Canadians with Chinese and Punjabi as mother tongues live in Vancouver.

Some mother tongue groups which have grown through earlier immigration to Canada, when new arrivals to the country went to more remote areas or to smaller census metropolitan areas, are located for the most part outside the three largest urban centres. This is the case for the German, Ukrainian and Dutch languages. High percentages of these groups live in smaller census metropolitan areas and outside census metropolitan areas.

Only a small proportion of those with Italian, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish and Greek mother tongues are located outside of Canada's 25 census metropolitan areas.

**Table 3.5**  
**Mother Tongue Groups Other Than English or French Living in Major Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA's), 1991**

Mother tongue	Number in Canada	Percentage living in CMA's and outside CMA's					
		Total	Toronto	Montreal	Vancouver	Other CMAS	Outside CMAS
Italian	538,690	100.0	42.7	25.1	3.8	26.4	2.0
Chinese	516,875	100.0	39.9	5.9	28.6	24.4	1.2
German	490,650	100.0	11.5	3.2	8.0	45.8	31.5
Portuguese	220,635	100.0	50.6	14.0	3.6	28.7	3.1
Polish	200,400	100.0	33.5	8.9	5.1	45.1	7.4
Ukrainian	201,315	100.0	14.0	3.1	4.1	53.1	25.7
Spanish	187,615	100.0	35.5	26.2	7.3	29.0	2.0
Dutch	146,425	100.0	11.1	1.9	8.4	51.3	27.3
Punjabi	147,255	100.0	30.0	2.5	32.3	31.9	3.4
Greek	132,985	100.0	40.8	35.2	4.2	17.9	2.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.



# Aboriginal Languages

The aboriginal languages of Canada have been spoken in the country for many years. Because of the concentration of various native groups in particular parts of the country, their presence is much more apparent in some provinces than in others. Cree is by far the most frequently reported mother tongue among the native languages with 82,000, followed by Ojibway (25,000) and Inuktitut (25,000).

Except for people with Micmac mother tongue in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, there are few native languages reported as mother tongue in the eastern provinces. Nova Scotia, with 3,800 reporting an aboriginal mother tongue, has the highest number. Those with an aboriginal language as mother tongue account for a sizeable proportion of the non-official languages in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. People with Cree as mother tongue are located in all provinces from Quebec to British Columbia, but are most concentrated in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (57%). The Ojibway mother tongue population is largely found in Ontario and Manitoba (89%), while 95% of those with Inuktitut as mother tongue live in the Northwest Territories or Quebec.

**Table 3.6**  
**Aboriginal Languages, Canada, 1991**

**(Eight most frequently reported mother tongues)**

	Number	Main location
Cree	82,070	Manitoba and Saskatchewan (57%)
Ojibway	25,245	Ontario and Manitoba (89%)
Inuktitut	24,980	Northwest Territories and Quebec (95%)
Montagnais-Naskapi	7,575	Quebec (84%)
Micmac	6,260	Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (68%)
Dakota	4,110	Alberta (71%)
Blackfoot	4,000	Alberta (97%)
South Slave	3,520	Northwest Territories and Alberta (94%)
Other	32,410	
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,170</b>	

Includes both single and multiple responses.

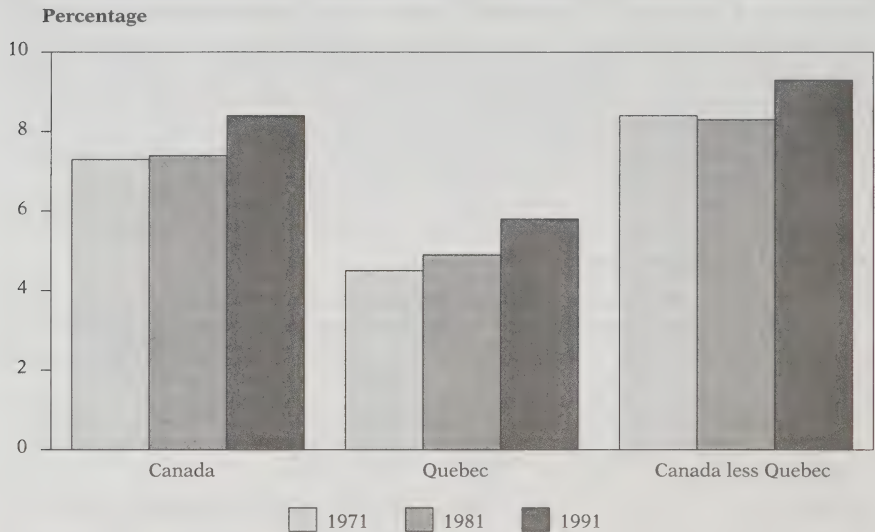
Note: On some Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 1991 Census, enumeration was not permitted, or was interrupted before it could be completed. Moreover, some Indian reserves and Indian settlements were enumerated late or the quality of the collected data was considered inadequate. The impact of this incomplete enumeration may be significant in some cases, particularly for the smaller language groups.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-333, Table 2.

# Home Language Other than English or French

The proportion of the population with a non-official language as home language increased in Quebec (reaching 6%) and outside Quebec (reaching 9%).

**Chart 3.3**  
**Percentage with Home Language Other than English or French, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1971, 1981 and 1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.2.

The population that uses non-official languages most often at home is considerably smaller than the population that has these languages as mother tongues. Many Canadians with a non-official language as a mother tongue use English or French most often at home. Nevertheless, 8% of Canadians reported a non-official language as their home language in 1991, up from 7% ten years earlier. Much of the increase was due to immigration to the four largest Canadian provinces, where most immigrants settled – Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta. The majority of those who speak a non-official language most often at home live in Ontario, where their number rose to almost 1.2 million.

**Table 3.7**

**Population with Home Language Other than English or French, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,788.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>2,265.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Newfoundland	2.5	0.4	3.1	0.5
Prince Edward Island	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Nova Scotia	8.9	1.1	10.6	1.2
New Brunswick	4.5	0.7	4.7	0.7
Quebec	309.2	4.9	396.7	5.8
Ontario	891.2	10.4	1,158.8	11.6
Manitoba	114.4	11.3	107.3	9.9
Saskatchewan	61.4	6.4	47.8	4.9
Alberta	159.9	7.2	193.8	7.7
British Colombia	219.0	8.1	323.0	9.9
Yukon	0.8	3.3	0.5	1.9
Northwest Territories	16.2	35.7	18.4	32.0
Canada less Quebec	1,479.1	8.3	1,868.4	9.3

Source: Appendix Table A.2.

## Knowledge of Non-official Languages

The 1991 Census was the first to ask Canadians whether they could speak a language other than English or French. Many have learned one of these languages as their mother tongue, but others have acquired one or more languages as "second languages". For example, Spanish is often learned as a second language. Almost one in five Canadians reported an ability to speak a language other than English or French. Ability in non-official languages ranges from about 1% in Newfoundland, where very few people have such languages as a mother tongue, to 47% in the Northwest Territories, where a large percentage of the population has Inuktitut as a mother tongue. Only small percentages of the populations of the eastern provinces are able to speak a non-official language. In Ontario, 2.4 million people (24% of the population) have this language capacity, followed by Quebec (816,000) and British Columbia (741,000).

**Table 3.8**  
**Population by Knowledge of Non-official Languages, Canada, Provinces, Territories**  
**and Canada Less Quebec, 1991**

	Number('000)	Percent
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,981.6</b>	<b>18.5</b>
Newfoundland	8.1	1.4
Prince Edward Island	2.5	1.9
Nova Scotia	31.2	3.5
New Brunswick	15.1	2.1
Quebec	815.8	12.0
Ontario	2,401.2	24.1
Manitoba	277.1	25.7
Saskatchewan	277.1	28.4
Alberta	494.6	19.6
British Columbia	740.6	22.8
Yukon	3.1	11.2
Northwest Territories	27.0	47.1
Canada less Quebec	4,165.8	20.6

Source: Appendix Table A.3.

Among the non-official languages that Canadians can speak, Italian is known by just over 700,000 people, followed closely by German (685,000), and then Chinese and Spanish.

While the majority of Canadians who speak Italian, German and Chinese have these languages as their mother tongue, those who speak Spanish more often learn it as a second language. Among the non-official languages, Spanish is learned more often as a second language than any other. German and Italian are also very popular languages to learn.

**Table 3.9**  
**Twenty Most Common Non-official Languages, Canada, 1991**

Language	Ability to speak		Mother tongue		Second language	
	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%
Italian	702	2.6	539	2.0	163	0.6
German	685	2.5	491	1.8	194	0.7
Chinese	557	2.1	517	1.9	40	0.1
Spanish	402	1.5	188	0.7	214	0.8
Portuguese	254	0.9	221	0.8	33	0.1
Ukrainian	250	0.9	201	0.7	49	0.2
Polish	240	0.9	200	0.7	40	0.1
Dutch	173	0.6	146	0.5	27	0.1
Punjabi	168	0.6	147	0.5	21	0.1
Arabic	164	0.6	119	0.4	45	0.2
Greek	161	0.6	133	0.5	28	0.1
Tagalog	137	0.5	116	0.4	21	0.1
Vietnamese	113	0.4	84	0.3	29	0.1
Hindi	112	0.4	41	0.2	71	0.3
Hungarian	97	0.4	84	0.3	13	0.0
Cree	94	0.3	82	0.3	12	0.0
Russian	84	0.3	38	0.1	46	0.2
Gujarati	54	0.2	42	0.2	12	0.0
Yiddish	53	0.2	28	0.1	25	0.1
Hebrew	52	0.2	13	0.0	39	0.1

Note: The figures for second language are estimated by subtracting the number with a given mother tongue from the number able to speak the language.

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Knowledge of Languages*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-318, Table 6A.  
 Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-333, Table 2.





# Chapter 4

## The Knowledge and Use of Official Languages

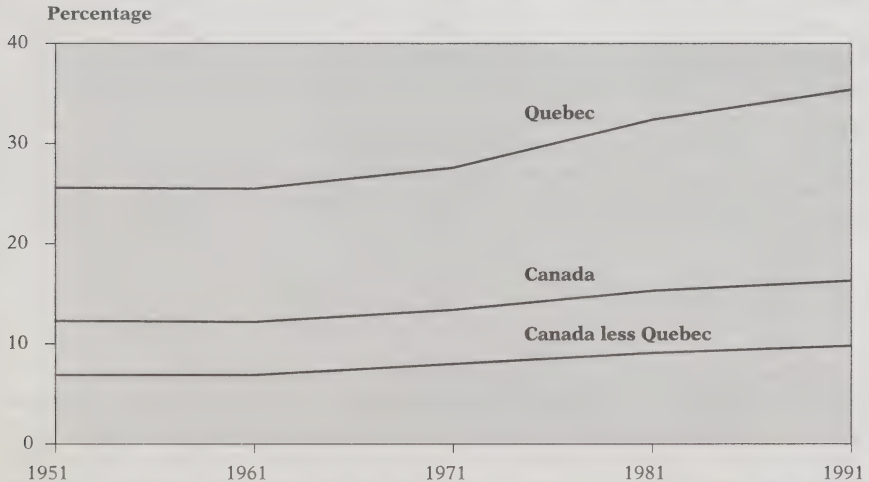
English and French are Canada's two official languages. They are the principal languages the great majority of Canadians use to communicate. In 1991, some 82% of Canadians were able to conduct a conversation either in English or in French and 16% were able to converse in both.

### English-French Bilingualism

English-French bilingualism rose markedly in Canada between 1951 and 1991. The number of bilingual Canadians more than doubled during that period, rising from 1.7 million to 4.4 million, while their proportion rose from 12% to 16%.

**Chart 4.1**

**English-French Bilingualism, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**



Source: Appendix Table A.3.

In 1991, the rate of English-French bilingualism was highest in Quebec (35%) and New Brunswick (30%). In all other provinces and territories, bilingualism was considerably lower than the national rate of 16%.

However, the rate of bilingualism increased nearly everywhere in the country in the decade before the last census. Between 1981 and 1991, the proportion of the population that was bilingual grew in each of the provinces and in the Yukon. It remained constant in the Northwest Territories.

**Table 4.1**  
**English-French Bilingualism, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981		1991	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,682.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>4,398.7</b>	<b>16.3</b>
Newfoundland	12.8	2.3	18.5	3.3
Prince Edward Island	9.8	8.1	13.0	10.1
Nova Scotia	62.4	7.4	76.5	8.6
New Brunswick	182.6	26.5	211.5	29.5
Quebec	2,065.1	32.4	2,413.0	35.4
Ontario	924.5	10.8	1,136.2	11.4
Manitoba	80.0	7.9	98.8	9.2
Saskatchewan	43.6	4.6	50.8	5.2
Alberta	142.5	6.4	167.2	6.6
British Columbia	154.2	5.7	207.2	6.4
Yukon	1.8	7.9	2.6	9.3
Northwest Territories	2.8	6.0	3.5	6.1
Canada less Quebec	1,616.9	9.1	1,985.7	9.8

Source: Appendix Table A.3.

The majority of bilingual persons live in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. In 1991, some 86% of all bilingual persons in Canada lived in these three provinces. More than half (55%) were in Quebec, with the largest concentration in the greater Montreal area. In the remaining two provinces, it is mainly in the municipalities bordering Quebec that one finds large proportions of bilingual persons. The proximity of the two official language groups is a major reason for the high rate of bilingualism in these areas.

**Table 4.2****Distribution of English-French Bilingual Population, Provinces and Territories, 1991**

	<b>Number('000)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,398.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Newfoundland	18.5	0.4
Prince Edward Island	13.0	0.3
Nova Scotia	76.5	1.7
New Brunswick	211.5	4.8
Quebec	2,413.0	54.9
Ontario	1,136.2	25.8
Manitoba	98.8	2.2
Saskatchewan	50.8	1.2
Alberta	167.2	3.8
British Columbia	207.2	4.7
Yukon	2.6	0.1
Northwest Territories	3.5	0.1

Source: Calculated from Appendix Table A.3.

The percentage of bilingual persons differs considerably from one census metropolitan area to another. Montreal has the highest bilingualism rate (48%), followed by Ottawa-Hull (43%), Sudbury (38%) and Sherbrooke (36%). In general, the census metropolitan areas in Quebec have a higher percentage of bilingual people than those outside Quebec. St. John's, Newfoundland, has the lowest proportion of bilingual people (5%) of any CMA. The rate of bilingualism increased in most census metropolitan areas between 1981 and 1991.

**Table 4.3**  
**English-French Bilingualism, Census Metropolitan Areas, 1981 and 1991**

Census Metropolitan Area	1981		1991	
	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%
Calgary	42.7	7.3	52.4	7.0
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	20.4	15.1	24.0	15.1
Edmonton	52.0	8.0	64.0	7.7
Halifax	20.9	7.6	30.5	9.6
Hamilton	33.0	6.1	39.0	6.6
Kitchener	15.4	5.4	23.7	6.7
London	16.6	5.9	24.1	6.4
Montreal	1,259.8	45.0	1,492.3	48.3
Oshawa	9.2	6.0	15.7	6.6
Ottawa-Hull	285.8	40.2	388.1	42.6
Québec	143.2	25.2	176.4	27.7
Regina	6.8	4.2	10.6	5.6
Saint John (New Brunswick)	10.2	9.0	13.1	10.6
Saskatoon	8.2	5.4	13.2	6.3
Sherbrooke	41.7	36.0	49.7	36.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	26.2	8.7	28.9	8.0
St. John's (Newfoundland)	4.5	3.0	8.0	4.7
Sudbury	53.9	36.2	60.0	38.5
Thunder Bay	7.0	5.9	8.3	6.8
Toronto	233.5	7.8	309.3	8.0
Trois-Rivières	24.4	22.1	29.1	21.6
Vancouver	82.4	6.6	114.2	7.2
Victoria	14.7	6.4	21.8	7.7
Windsor	27.5	11.3	27.7	10.7
Winnipeg	50.8	8.8	67.9	10.5

Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.  
 Statistics Canada, *Knowledge of Languages*. 1991 Census of Canada,  
 Catalogue No. 93-318, Table 1B.

The rate of bilingualism for language groups varies depending on where they live: minority language groups have a higher bilingualism rate than the majority ones. At 39%,



the rate of bilingualism among people reporting French as mother tongue was almost five times greater than that among those who reported English as mother tongue (8%). Canadians with French as a mother tongue living outside Quebec have a higher rate of bilingualism than do those with English as a mother tongue. Conversely, in Quebec, the English mother tongue minority has the higher rate of bilingualism.

**Table 4.4**  
**English-French Bilingualism by Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1981 and 1991**

	1981	1991
	Percent	Percent
<b>Canada</b>		
Anglophones	7.6	8.5
Francophones	36.2	38.9
<b>Quebec</b>		
Anglophones	53.2	59.4
Francophones	28.7	31.5
<b>Canada less Quebec</b>		
Anglophones	5.3	6.4
Francophones	79.0	81.1

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue, Official Language and Home Language*. 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-910, Table 1.  
Statistics Canada, *Knowledge of Languages*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-318, Table 3.

The rate of bilingualism also varies considerably by age group for Anglophones and Francophones. The difference reflects the two populations' differing ways of learning a second language. In the case of Francophones, the rate reaches a peak at ages that correspond to high labour force participation. Thus, the rate is highest for the 20-24 age group, and stays high at subsequent ages.

**Table 4.5**  
**English-French Bilingualism by Age Group Showing Mother Tongue, Canada, 1991**

Age group	Mother tongue		
	English Percent	French Percent	Non-official languages Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>11.3</b>
0 to 4	1.6	7.3	2.7
5 to 9	8.0	11.2	9.0
10 to 14	14.8	19.6	17.5
15 to 19	16.7	39.6	22.8
20 to 24	11.9	49.5	18.7
25 to 34	8.2	47.6	14.0
35 to 44	8.4	48.1	11.9
45 to 54	7.5	47.0	10.5
55 to 64	5.6	42.6	7.4
65 and over	4.3	38.4	5.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.

For Anglophones, the rate of bilingualism is highest at ages corresponding to the school years. It reaches a maximum for the 15-19 age group, and declines thereafter. In other words, Anglophones outside Quebec learn French as a second language mainly at school. From kindergarten on, they can register for a French immersion programme or take French courses. Since 1971, a growing number of English public schools have been providing French immersion programmes and the number of students who are registered in them has grown continuously over the years.

In Canada, between 1981 and 1991, the number of elementary or secondary students enrolled in French immersion rose from 65,000 to 250,000, and the proportion rose from 2% to 7% of eligible school enrolment. Ontario accounted for more than half of all students enrolled in French immersion, while New Brunswick had the highest proportion of students in such programmes.

**Table 4.6**  
**Enrolment in French Immersion Programmes in Public Schools, Provinces**  
**(excluding Quebec) and Territories, 1980-1981 and 1990-1991**

	Eligible school enrolment <sup>1</sup>		French immersion programmes			
	1980-1981	1990-1991	1980-1981		1990-1991	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3,126,091</b>	<b>3,646,680</b>	<b>64,761</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>249,523</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Newfoundland	148,408	126,772	392	0.3	4,269	3.4
Prince Edward Island	26,296	23,835	1,280	4.9	3,371	14.1
Nova Scotia	180,384	162,232	590	0.3	5,286	3.3
New Brunswick	103,487	88,429	5,532	5.4	16,693	18.9
Ontario	1,739,327	1,837,082	46,638	2.7	133,906	7.3
Manitoba	197,894	192,122	4,286	2.2	19,604	10.2
Saskatchewan	203,652	197,857	1,603	0.8	10,713	5.4
Alberta <sup>3</sup>	..	481,338	..	..	26,924	5.6
British Columbia	509,146	517,788	4,368	0.9	27,984	5.4
Yukon	4,925	5,209	35	0.7	369	7.1
Northwest Territories	12,572	14,016	37	0.3	404	2.9

.. Figures not available.

<sup>1</sup> The eligible school enrolment is the total school enrolment less the number enrolled in minority language programmes. For the 1980-1981 period, the data for Alberta are excluded from the total.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding Québec.

<sup>3</sup> In Alberta, data on French immersion programmes are available back to the 1983-1984 period only. The number of students for that period was 14,523 or 3.2 % of the eligible school enrolment.

Source : Statistics Canada, *Minority and Second Language Education, Elementary and Secondary Levels, 1990-91*, Catalogue No. 81-257 Annual, Tables 8 and 9.

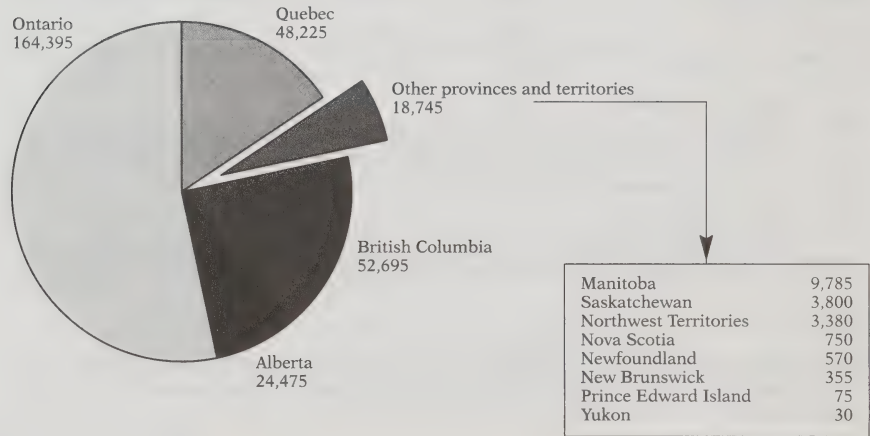
In the case of Francophones in Quebec, English immersion programmes are virtually non-existent. There are mandatory English courses, but they are offered only in the higher grades. The job market plays an important role in learning English as a second language. Between 1971 and 1991, participation in the labour force increased considerably for Quebec's population, rising from 53% to 64% as a result of the increased presence of women in the labour force. This change has likely played a role in the advance of bilingualism, since

nearly half of the labour force in that province is bilingual. In 1971, some 38% of the female population in Quebec was bilingual, but by 1991 this proportion had risen to 44%. This increase was higher than that in the male population, where the percentage of bilingual people rose from 46% to 49%.

### Population Unable to Speak English or French

During the 1980s, the number of people in Canada who were unable to speak English or French increased considerably. According to the 1991 Census, a total of 378,000 residents spoke neither official language. These included young children who could not speak any language at all, but even excluding children under five years old from our calculations, there remained 309,000 people who could not speak English or French.

**Chart 4.2**  
**People Unable to Speak English or French, Provinces and Territories, 1991**



Note: Refers to population 5 years of age and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.

Most of the people who are unable to speak English or French live in Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta. These provinces have been popular choices of residence for many recent immigrants: a group in which many people speak neither English nor French. Other provinces and territories have far fewer people with this language difficulty, ranging from approximately 10,000 in Manitoba to fewer than 100 each in Prince Edward Island and the Yukon.

In 1991, most of the people who were unable to speak an official language lived in large urban areas. Toronto, a city in which almost 40% of the population was born outside Canada, led the way with 124,000, followed by Vancouver (45,000) and Montreal (42,000). Edmonton and Calgary, the two major metropolitan areas in Alberta, were each home to more than 10,000 people unable to speak either English or French.

In the 1980s, the number of people unable to speak English or French increased considerably in the four most populous provinces and in the largest urban centres. In Toronto, for example, the number of people who spoke neither official language rose from 89,000 in 1981 to 124,000 a decade later, while in Vancouver the number almost doubled over the 10-year period. Montreal also experienced a considerable increase in this population, while smaller but significant increases were observed in Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa-Hull. Such increases have considerable implications for social services (for example, language training) which are needed to integrate this population into Canadian society.



**Table 4.7**  
**Population Unable to Speak English or French, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 1981 and 1991**

Canada, Provinces and Territories			Census Metropolitan Area		
	1981	1991		1981	1991
<b>Canada</b>	<b>234,290</b>	<b>308,535</b>	Calgary	5,435	10,425
Newfoundland	350	570	Chicoutimi-Jonquière	55	10
Prince Edward Island	25	75	Edmonton	7,300	11,165
Nova Scotia	475	750	Halifax	305	495
New Brunswick	310	355	Hamilton	7,180	7,715
Quebec	37,960	48,225	Kitchener	3,930	4,885
Ontario	125,545	164,395	London	1,970	3,580
Manitoba	11,400	9,785	Montreal	30,625	42,265
Saskatchewan	5,120	3,800	Oshawa	800	1,070
Alberta	16,910	24,475	Ottawa-Hull	4,160	7,280
British Columbia	31,565	52,695	Québec	375	515
Yukon	45	30	Regina	580	735
Northwest Territories	4,585	3,380	Saint John (New Brunswick)	160	120
			Saskatoon	835	910
			Sherbrooke	135	245
			St. Catharines-Niagara	2,340	2,185
			St. John's (Newfoundland)	95	150
			Sudbury	750	400
			Thunder Bay	1,020	795
			Toronto	89,435	123,845
			Trois-Rivières	65	50
			Vancouver	24,085	45,215
			Victoria	1,470	1,495
			Windsor	2,675	3,210
			Winnipeg	6,095	6,800

Note: Refers to population 5 years of age and over.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.  
Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.

People with Chinese, Italian or Portuguese as their mother tongues together account for more than half (54%) of all those unable to speak English or French in Canada. Chinese, the fastest-growing language group during the five years before the 1991 Census, was the mother tongue of 86,000 of these people, followed by Italian (46,000) and Portuguese (33,000).

In each language group, about 60% of those unable to speak an official language were women. The lower labour force participation of women is one reason for the difference in language abilities between the sexes. Men's higher labour force participation exposes them to the official languages at work and may also mean that they have better access to language training programmes.

## Use of Languages in Various Activities

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Most Canadians use their mother tongue in their day-to-day communications with others. This is especially true of Francophones in Quebec and Anglophones in the other provinces and territories. The results of a 1986 survey<sup>1</sup> revealed that more than nine out of ten Canadians used their mother tongue to communicate with other members of their family at home, with friends, at work, with their doctor or watching television.

However, the situation is different for Canadians living in a community in which their mother tongue is a minority language. Thus, Francophones living outside Quebec tend to use a language other than their mother tongue (mainly English) in many circumstances. French is used more frequently with friends (in 68% of cases) than during visits to the doctor (in only 35% of cases).

Many Allophones, whether they live in Quebec or elsewhere, use a language other than their mother tongue in their activities. Only at home or with friends do they use their mother tongue a little more frequently (in approximately 60% of cases in Quebec and a little less often in the rest of Canada). In all other situations, English or French predominates.

Anglophones in Quebec, although a minority group, generally use English in the situations surveyed. It is only during visits to the doctor that they use a language (mainly French) other than their mother tongue to a significant degree. Even there, though, they do so in only 15% of the cases. A key reason for this is that Quebec Anglophones are very highly concentrated in the greater Montreal area. For example, at the time of the 1986 Census, nearly three-quarters of Anglophones in Quebec lived in that area.

An examination of whether the mother tongue is the language most used in different situations shows substantial differences related to mother tongue and place of residence. For example, among Francophones outside Quebec, 64% used French at work, but only 36% used it more often than English. Among Anglophones in Quebec, 92% used English at work and 72% used English more often than French.

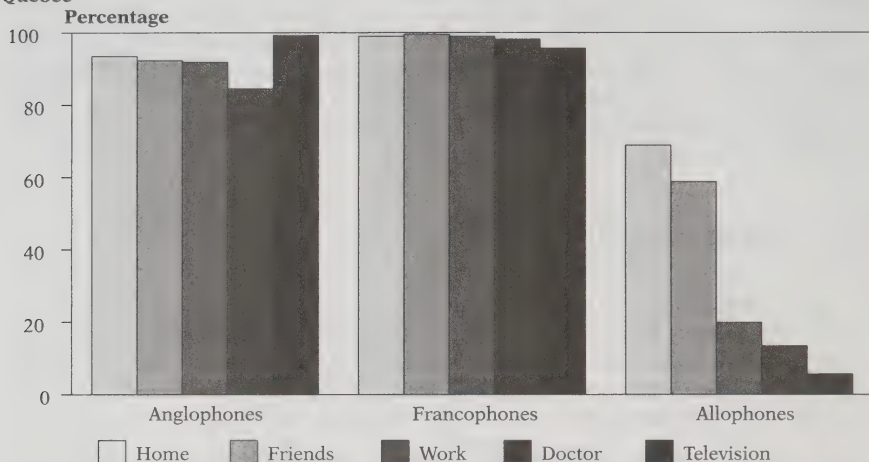
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<sup>1</sup> General Social Survey, 1986. *Time Use, Social Mobility and Language*. Statistics Canada.

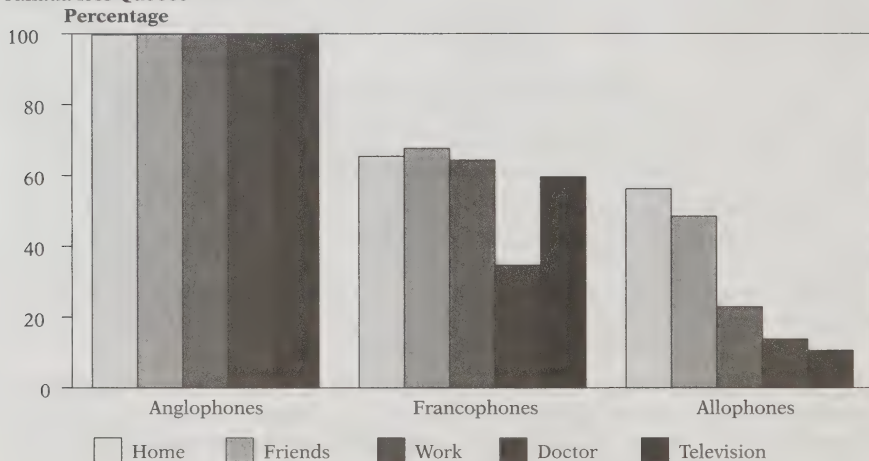
**Chart 4.3**

**Use of Mother Tongue in Various Situations, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1986**

**Quebec**



**Canada less Quebec**



Note: Indicates the percentage of Anglophones, Francophones and Allophones who use their mother tongue in different situations. Some respondents used more than one language.

Source : Statistics Canada, 1986 General Social Survey, unpublished tabulations.

# Chapter

## 5

### Factors Affecting the Evolution of Language Groups

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The size of language groups in Canada has been influenced by demographic factors that affect any population – births, deaths and migration (immigration and emigration). When we subtract the number of deaths from the number of births, we arrive at the “natural increase” in the population; i.e., the net change which is due to these two natural phenomena. The size of groups also depends on whether the mother tongue of parents is transmitted to the children. It is important to understand the differential effects that these influences have had on the evolution of language groups.

If we examine changes that have taken place from 1951 to 1991, we can summarize the most significant ones:

#### English Language Group

##### *Canada*

- Considerable growth during the four decades, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s, when the number of Anglophones increased by 2.4 million and 2.3 million, respectively.
- Smaller, but substantial, increases in the 1970s and 1980s (1.8 million and 1.5 million, respectively).
- A slight increase in the percentage of Anglophones in Canada's population, from 59% to 60%.

##### *Quebec*

- Growth in the Anglophone population during the first two decades of the forty-year period (140,000 and 90,000, respectively).
- Declines in the Anglophone population in both of the subsequent decades; 100,000 during the 1970s and 70,000 during the 1980s.
- Decline in the percentage of Anglophones from 14% in 1951 to 9% in 1991.

##### *Canada less Quebec*

- Substantial growth in all four decades, but lower during the two most recent ones.

## **French Language Group**

### ***Canada***

- Substantial growth during the 1950s (1 million), smaller growth during the 1960s (670,000) and much lower growth during the two most recent decades (380,000 in each).
- Decline in the percentage of Francophones in Canada's population, from 29% in 1951 to 24% in 1991.

### ***Quebec***

- Substantial increases during the 1950s and 1960s (920,000 and 600,000, respectively).
- Smaller increases during the two subsequent decades; 390,000 in the 1971-1981 period and 330,000 in the last decade of the forty-year period.
- A slight decline in the percentage of Francophones among Quebec's population, from 83% to 82%.

### ***Canada less Quebec***

- Increases during the first two decades of the forty-year period (130,000 and 75,000, respectively).
- Little change in the number of Francophones during the 1970s and an increase of 55,000 during the 1980s.

## **Non-official Languages**

### ***Canada***

- Substantial increase during the 1950s (795,000), followed by much smaller increases in the next two decades (345,000 and 320,000).
- Remarkable increase of 1 million from 1981-1991.
- Increase in the percentage of Canadians with a non-official language as their mother tongue from 12% in 1951 to 15% in 1991.

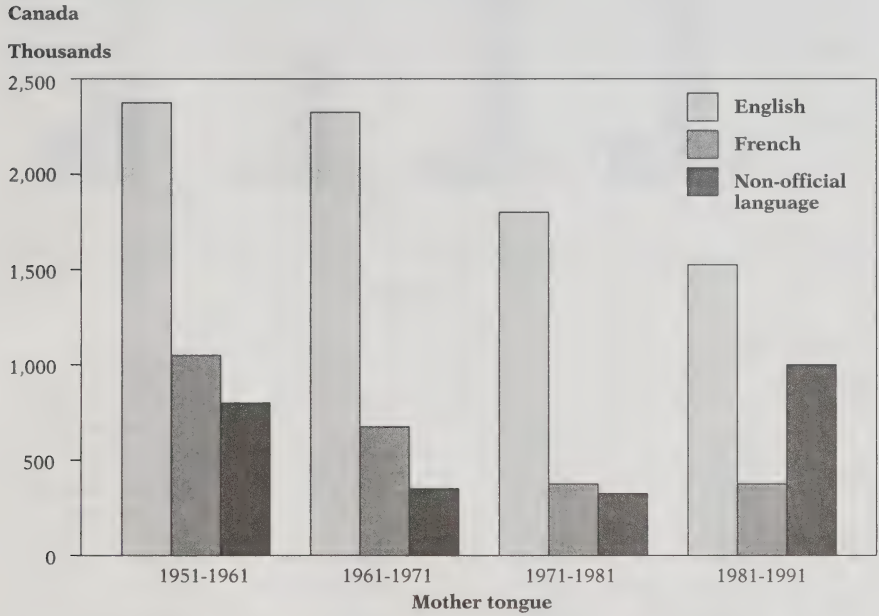
### ***Quebec***

- Considerable increase in the 1950s (140,000), followed by much smaller increases in the two subsequent decades (80,000 and 50,000, respectively) and a marked increase of 175,000 between 1981 and 1991.
- A rise in the proportion of Quebecers with a non-official language as their mother tongue, from 4% in 1951 to 9% in 1991.

*Canada less Quebec*

- A large increase during the 1950s (655,000), followed by a much smaller increase in the 1961-1971 period (265,000).
- A similar increase during the 1970s (270,000), followed by a very large increase in the most recent decade (825,000).

**Chart 5.1**  
**Change in Size of Language Groups, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1961, 1961-1971, 1971-1981, 1981-1991**



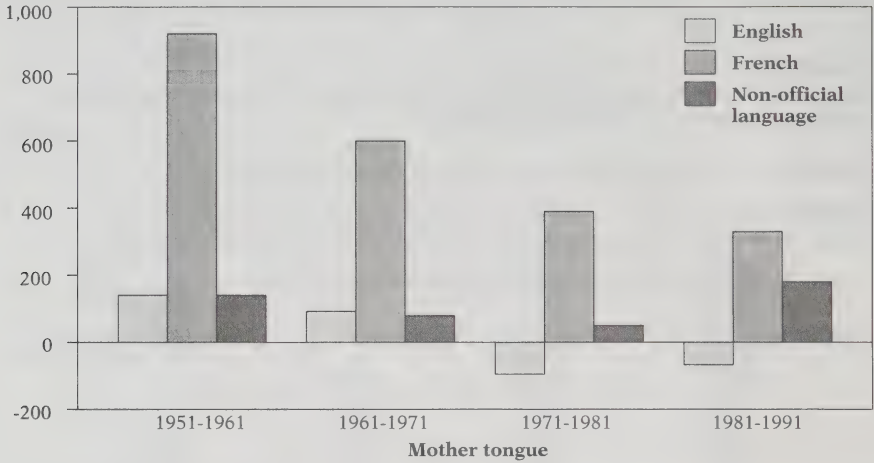


**Chart 5.1**

**Change in Size of Language Groups, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1961, 1961-1971, 1971-1981, 1981-1991 (Concluded)**

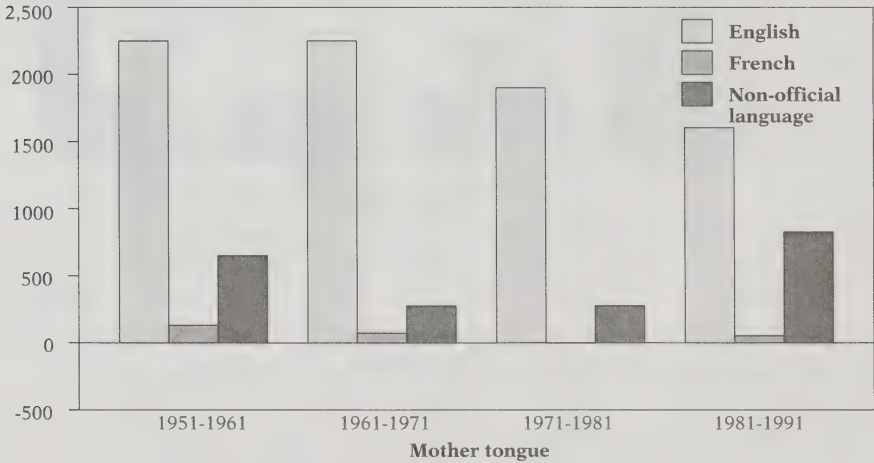
**Quebec**

**Thousands**



**Canada less Quebec**

**Thousands**



Source: Calculated from Appendix Table A.1.

## Fertility

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Differences in fertility in different language groups can have the effect of favouring an increase in one group, particularly in times when there is considerable difference in the size of families. This was the case in the 1950s and early 1960s, when Francophone women tended to have more children than their Anglophone counterparts. For example, in the five years between 1956 and 1961, the total fertility rate (births per woman) was 4.3 for women whose mother tongue was French and 3.8 for those whose mother tongue was English. Reproducing at a rate that was considerably higher than that of Anglophones had the effect of holding up the proportion of Francophones in Canada, despite an immigration pattern that favoured the English mother tongue population. This was a continuation of the higher fertility of French-Canadian women which had existed for the first half of the 20th century. The difference in fertility was largely responsible for maintaining the relative strength of the French population in Canada at about 30% for most of the period prior to the 1950s.

**Table 5.1**  
**Total Fertility Rate by Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec,**  
**1956-1991**

Five-year period	Children per woman			
	All languages	English	French	Other
<b>Canada</b>				
1956-1961	3.88	3.80	4.31	3.48
1961-1966	3.51	3.48	3.66	3.40
1966-1971	2.49	2.46	2.36	2.85
1971-1976	1.98	1.95	1.85	2.32
1976-1981	1.75	1.68	1.72	2.11
1981-1986	1.66	1.67	1.49	1.94
1986-1991	1.65	1.68	1.51	1.79
<b>Quebec</b>				
1956-1961	3.99	3.26	4.22	2.79
1961-1966	3.43	3.04	3.54	2.93
1966-1971	2.26	2.09	2.27	2.58
1971-1976	1.82	1.62	1.81	2.26
1976-1981	1.71	1.46	1.71	2.04
1981-1986	1.49	1.46	1.47	1.79
1986-1991	1.51	1.54	1.49	1.78
<b>Canada less Quebec</b>				
1956-1961	3.84	3.82	4.95	3.57
1961-1966	3.55	3.50	4.34	3.46
1966-1971	2.58	2.48	2.87	2.89
1971-1976	2.04	1.96	2.12	2.33
1976-1981	1.76	1.69	1.76	2.12
1981-1986	1.72	1.68	1.60	1.96
1986-1991	1.69	1.68	1.56	1.79

Sources: Lachapelle, R., Evolution of Fertility Differences between Language Groups in Canada, *Canadian Social Trends*, No. 10, Autumn 1988, Catalogue No. 11-008E, pp. 2-8.  
 Statistics Canada, unpublished tabulations.

The fertility of French Canadian women, however, declined in the 1960s, so much so that by the end of the decade they tended to have fewer children than Anglophones. By the

early 1980s, fertility among French Canadian women was less than half that of the 1950s. The data show a marked decrease in fertility for Quebec women, and the convergence of fertility rates of Anglophones and Francophones in the rest of the country. The total fertility rate for Francophone women in the 1981-1986 period was 1.5, compared to 1.7 for Anglophone women, and the 1991 Census confirmed the lower fertility of Francophone women. Demographers consider the “replacement level” fertility to correspond to a total fertility rate of 2.1. Consequently, without increases brought on by immigration or shifts from other language groups, both the Francophone and Anglophone populations in Canada would eventually decline.

The fertility of women who have a non-official language as a mother tongue has been higher than that of either Anglophones or Francophones since the mid-1960s. However, we must be careful in assessing the magnitude of the impact of this higher fertility on the growth of non-official languages in this country, since children of immigrant women who are born in Canada often learn one of the official languages as their mother tongue.

## **Mortality**

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While there were differences in longevity of Anglophones and Francophones during the first half of the 20th century, there is now very little difference in life expectancy between these populations. Demographers have generally concluded that this factor is not important in explaining different rates of growth for the language groups in Canada.

## **Immigration**

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Immigration has been the main source of the increase in the number of Canadians whose mother tongue is a non-official language. The 1991 Census showed that 62% of those born outside Canada had a language other than English or French as their mother tongue. Immigration has also contributed significantly to the increase in the Anglophone population in Canada, but has had far less impact on the growth of the French mother tongue group. In the 1991 Census, of immigrants who came to Canada during the period from 1951 to 1991, there were ten times as many with English mother tongue as with French mother tongue. In addition, all but 14% of those who immigrated to Canada during this forty-year period were living outside Quebec, in provinces and territories where the vast majority of them learn English and where many of their children have English as their mother tongue.

The effect of immigration was most significant during the 1951-1961 and the 1981-1991 periods. During the former decade, net migration (immigrants minus emigrants) to Canada accounted for 900,000 new Canadians, while it amounted to 930,000 in the latter. During the 1960s, net migration for Canada was 525,000 while 795,000 new Canadians resulted from net migration in the 1971-1981 period. The two decades in which net migration was highest

correspond with those in which the increase in the number of Canadians with a non-official language as mother tongue was most significant.

Outside Quebec, immigration has had the effect of increasing the population with a non-official language as a mother tongue in the short run. The experience of immigrants to Canada during the early part of this century shows that in the longer term, descendants of immigrants often learn English as mother tongue.

In Quebec, the short-term effect of immigration is similar – an increase in the population with a non-official language as mother tongue. The longer term effect is more ambiguous than for immigrants outside Quebec: some of their children learn English as mother tongue and others learn French. Immigrant mothers who came to the country prior to 1981 had children who learned English as mother tongue more often than French. Since that time, the situation has changed and the children of immigrants learn French as mother tongue more often than English.

**Table 5.2**  
**Components of Population Growth, Canada, 1951-1991**

	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration
1951-1961	4,468,340	1,320,142	3,148,198	1,542,853	644,000	898,853
1961-1971	4,104,598	1,497,318	2,607,280	1,428,895	904,500	524,395
1971-1981	3,567,156	1,664,291	1,911,865	1,429,440	635,841	793,599
1981-1991	3,803,481	1,831,810	1,971,671	1,371,306	443,368	927,938

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, unpublished tabulations.

### Interprovincial Migration

Language is an important factor when considering the tendency of Canadians to move to another province. It is most vital for Quebec, since moving to that province often means moving to a more Francophone environment and leaving it often means moving to a more Anglophone environment. Language is significant in establishing the social and cultural climate that affects the tendency of Quebecers to leave the province and that of the rest of Canadians to move to Quebec.

The 1991 Census showed that the percentage of Quebecers who had moved from another province was the lowest in Canada – three times less than the national average. Slightly over 1% of Quebecers had come from another province in the five years prior to the

census, compared with 3% in Ontario and 4% or more in the rest of the provinces and territories.

While language is an important reason why many Francophones stay in Quebec, the Anglophone population in that province can move to other provinces more readily and, in fact, has a much greater tendency to leave. In the twenty-five years prior to the 1991 Census, approximately 450,000 Anglophones left Quebec for other provinces. This number is quite high, considering the size of the Anglophone population (626,000 in 1991). At the same time, Francophone inter-provincial migration amounted to 220,000 (5.6 million Francophones were enumerated in 1991).

The most significant migration of Anglophones from Quebec was during the 1976-1981 period, when about 130,000 left Quebec for other provinces and only 25,000 came to Quebec from the rest of Canada, for a net loss of more than 100,000 English mother tongue people. This migration coincided with the introduction of language legislation (Bill 101) which promoted French as the language of work and with favourable economic conditions in other large provinces. In the five years between 1986 and 1991, Anglophone migration declined to result in a net loss of about 22,000 – far less than in any other quinquennial period.

There is relatively little movement of Quebecers with French as a mother tongue to other provinces. Much of it is compensated by the arrival of Francophones from other parts of the country. During the twenty-five years prior to the 1991 Census, the peak migration (about 50,000) occurred in the 1976-1981 period. Subsequently, the number of leavers declined. During the most recent period, there was actually a net gain in Francophones through inter-provincial migration.



**Table 5.3**  
**Interprovincial Migration Between Quebec and Other Provinces and Territories by**  
**Mother Tongue, 1966-1971, 1971-1976, 1976-1981, 1981-1986 and 1986-1991**

Period	Total	English	French	Other
<b>From Quebec to other provinces</b>				
1966-71	160,400	99,100	46,900	14,400
1971-76	145,800	94,100	41,300	10,400
1976-81	203,000	131,500	49,900	21,600
1981-86	130,200	70,600	45,900	13,700
1986-91	107,500	53,800	37,800	16,000
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>746,900</b>	<b>449,100</b>	<b>221,800</b>	<b>76,100</b>
<b>From other provinces to Quebec</b>				
1966-71	84,900	46,900	33,400	4,600
1971-76	83,800	41,900	37,200	4,700
1976-81	61,300	25,200	31,900	4,200
1981-86	67,000	29,000	33,000	5,000
1986-91	82,000	31,600	43,000	7,400
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>379,000</b>	<b>174,600</b>	<b>178,500</b>	<b>25,900</b>
<b>Net migration (departures minus arrivals)</b>				
1966-71	-75,500	-52,200	-13,500	-9,800
1971-76	-62,000	-52,200	-4,100	-5,700
1976-81	-141,700	-106,300	-18,000	-17,400
1981-86	-63,200	-41,600	-12,900	-8,700
1986-91	-25,600	-22,200	5,200	-8,600
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>-368,000</b>	<b>-274,500</b>	<b>-43,300</b>	<b>-50,200</b>

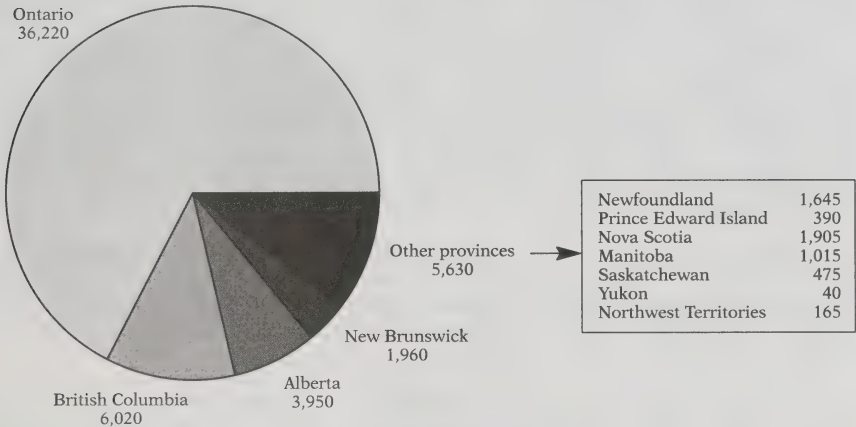
1. The totals include those who have moved in more than one quinquennial period, and are thus counted more than once.

Sources: 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 Censuses of Canada, unpublished tabulations.

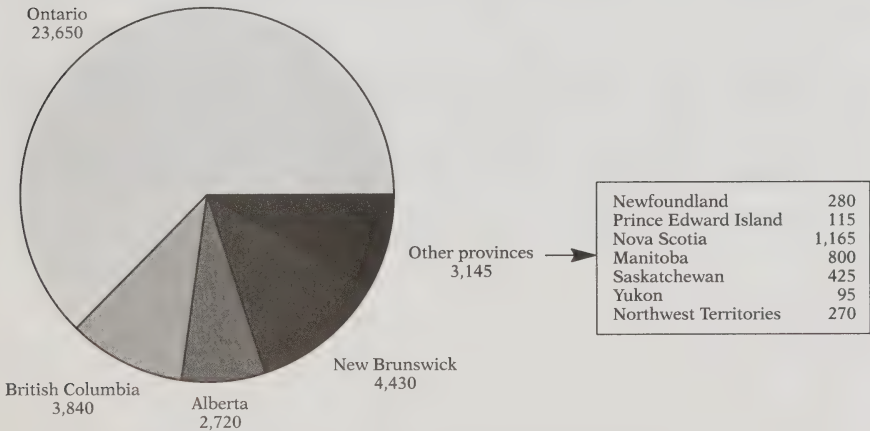
If we study the destinations of Anglophones and Francophones who left Quebec in the 1986-1991 period, we find that there is very little difference in their patterns of migration. A considerable majority of both Anglophones and Francophones went to Ontario – almost two-thirds of Francophones and a slightly greater proportion of Anglophones. British Columbia was the next most favoured destination for both language groups. New Brunswick, with its large French minority (about a third of the population has French as its mother tongue) and proximity to Quebec, was the third most favoured destination among Francophones, while Alberta was third for Anglophones leaving Quebec.

**Chart 5.2**  
**Interprovincial Migration Between Quebec and Other Provinces and Territories by Mother Tongue, 1986-1991**

**53,775 Anglophones who left Quebec, 1986-1991, moved to:**



**37,770 Francophones who left Quebec, 1986-1991, moved to:**



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.

If we analyze the source of migrants coming to Quebec between 1986 and 1991, we find similar patterns of migration. The majority of Francophones (62%) and Anglophones (65%) came from Ontario.

## Passing on the Language

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The growth and decline of languages is affected by the tendency of one generation to pass the language on to the next. We can study this phenomenon by looking at the mother tongue of children in relation to the mother tongue of their parents. When both parents have the same official language as their mother tongue in Canada, the children almost always have that mother tongue, be it English or French. However, when parents have a non-official language as mother tongue, the children often learn one of the official languages (usually English) as mother tongue instead.

Almost a third of the children whose parents both have a non-official language as their mother tongue learn English as their first language. In Quebec, about 10% of such children have English mother tongue and 10% French. Parents with a non-official language as their mother tongue are more likely to pass that language to their children as a mother tongue in Quebec than the parents living outside Quebec.

Children of English-French couples in Quebec have a greater tendency to learn French as their mother tongue (55%) than English (38%). Outside Quebec, children in such situations are very likely to have English as their mother tongue (81%) rather than French (13%).

Children in families where both parents have French mother tongue, who were living outside Quebec, sometimes have English as their mother tongue (7%) rather than French (93%).

The tendency to pass on a language to children is influenced by a number of factors. Among the most important is the geographic concentration of the population which makes up a particular language group. For example, parents with a non-official language as their mother tongue are more likely to pass that language to their children if they live in a large ethnic community, than if they are alone in a large Anglophone or Francophone population.

**Table 5.4**

**Mother Tongue of Children under 18 Years of Age Living in a Husband-wife Family by Mother Tongue of Parents, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1991**

Canada								
Mother tongue of parents	Mother of children							
	English		French		Non-official		Multiple mother tongue	
	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%
Both English	2,918,900	99.8	1,795	0.1	1,435	0.0	5,050	0.2
Both French	10,420	0.9	1,183,610	99.0	530	0.0	1,540	0.1
Both non-official language	248,660	31.3	11,705	1.5	503,925	63.3	31,175	3.9
One English and one French	149,700	70.4	50,605	23.8	180	0.1	12,255	5.8
Other	412,090	82.9	34,510	6.9	22,545	4.5	24,845	5.0

Quebec								
Mother tongue of parents	Mother of children							
	English		French		Non-official		Multiple mother tongue	
	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%
Both English	63,540	98.3	730	1.1	140	0.2	250	0.4
Both French	1,920	0.2	1,063,550	99.7	470	0.0	755	0.1
Both non-official language	12,065	10.4	11,175	9.6	88,615	76.4	4,115	3.5
One English and one French	20,065	37.6	29,540	55.3	130	0.2	3,665	6.9
Other	18,555	29.5	29,735	47.3	5,270	8.4	9,325	14.8

**Table 5.4**  
**Mother Tongue of Children under 18 Years of Age Living in a Husband-wife Family**  
**by Mother Tongue of Parents, Canada, Quebec and Canada Less Quebec, 1991 –**  
**Concluded**

Canada less Quebec								
Mother tongue of parents	Mother of children							
	English		French		Non-official		Multiple mother tongue	
	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%	Number ('000)	%
Both English	2,855,360	99.9	1,065	0.0	1,295	0.0	4,800	0.2
Both French	8,500	6.6	120,060	92.8	60	0.0	785	0.6
Both non-official language	236,595	34.8	530	0.1	415,310	61.1	27,060	4.0
One English and one French	129,635	81.4	21,065	13.2	50	0.0	8,590	5.4
Other	393,535	90.6	4,775	1.1	17,275	4.0	15,520	3.6

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada, unpublished tabulations.

### Language Shift

While it does not have a direct bearing on the size and growth of language groups, language shift, the tendency to speak a language at home that differs from the mother tongue, is often an indicator of future change. In many cases children learn the language that is used most often in the home as their mother tongue.

This indicator of the language situation varies in roughly the same way as our measure of the tendency to pass a language to the next generation. Language shift for those whose mother tongue is English is fairly rare, except in Quebec, where 10% of Anglophones speak another language (usually French) most often at home. Among Francophones, there are few (1%) who speak English most often at home in Quebec. However, more than one-third of Francophones outside Quebec speak English most often at home.

**Table 5.5**  
**Population with Home Language Different from Mother Tongue, Canada, Quebec**  
**and Canada Less Quebec, 1991**

Mother tongue	Canada		Quebec		Canada less Quebec	
	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%	Number('000)	%
English	117.4	0.7	59.1	9.9	58.3	0.4
French	402.1	6.2	68.4	1.2	333.7	35.2
Other	1,740.2	43.6	188.2	32.4	1,552.0	45.5

Source: Calculated from Statistics Canada, *Language Retention and Transfer*,  
1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 94-319, Table 1.

### Overview

Despite an increasing number of Francophones in Canada, their relative share of the Canadian population declined during the forty years analysed in this study. The two major factors that contributed to this decline were the reduction in the fertility of Francophones and the immigration to Canada of many people whose mother tongue is a language other than French. The arrival of these immigrants (roughly 5.8 million) added considerably to the Anglophone population, and to the population with a non-official language as mother tongue, but augmented the French population only slightly.

In Quebec, the number of Francophones increased considerably and the percentage observed in 1991 was similar to that in 1951 (82%). The departure of many Anglophones has enabled the Francophone population to maintain its relative strength despite a decrease in the fertility of Francophone women, and an increase in the Allophone population, particularly in the most recent decade.

Outside Quebec, the number of Francophones has grown, but the percentage has declined steadily. Rather than a reflection of dwindling numbers, this decline results from increases in the non-Francophone population which gained considerable numbers through immigration. The high tendency of children born to English-French couples to learn English as their mother tongue has also contributed to the decline.

The size of the Anglophone population in Canada increased considerably during the four decades between 1951 and 1991, while the percentage (60% in 1991) changed very little. Immigration and the tendency of the children of immigrants to learn English as mother tongue contributed substantially to the observed increase in Anglophones. In Quebec, the English mother tongue group has declined both in number and percentage due to migration to other Canadian provinces.



The population with a non-official language as a mother tongue increased both in number and in proportion. Immigration is the main source of growth for most language groups other than English or French and the majority of immigrants have a non-official language as mother tongue.

## Conclusion

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The four decades between 1951 and 1991 were a time of considerable change in the linguistic landscape of our country. In this period the Canadian population almost doubled, from fourteen to twenty-seven million. Such increases seldom take place without an effect on the composition of the population. This study has presented an overview of important changes, as well as a portrait of the current language situation.

The factors which have led to the present balance of English, French and other language groups – fertility, immigration, emigration and the transmission of the language to the next generation – will continue to play vital roles as the languages evolve in the future. If the fertility of French-Canadian women remains below the average fertility of Canadians, the percentage of Francophones in Canada will continue to decline unless their numbers are bolstered considerably by immigration and by a continuation of the tendency of immigrant children in Quebec to learn French as mother tongue.

The percentage of Canadians with a language other than English or French as a mother tongue depends largely on immigration. In the short run, immigration increases this population, but in the long run the children and grandchildren of immigrants tend to learn one of the official languages as mother tongue. Thus, heavy immigration could maintain or increase the percentage of Canadians in this population briefly, but if the language patterns observed for earlier immigrants continue, a decline would eventually take place.

The population whose mother tongue is English has grown as a result of immigration, as people with English mother tongue move to Canada, and as the descendants of immigrants from other language groups move toward using the language of the North American majority. While the short-term impact of heavy immigration is to increase the non-official languages, use of the English language has experienced considerable long-term growth through immigration. If immigration continues to favour the growth of the Anglophone group and fertility of the two official language groups remains similar to current levels, it is likely that both the number and proportion of Anglophones will increase in the future.



## Glossary

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- **Mother Tongue**  
Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
- **Home Language**  
Refers to the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census.
- **Knowledge of Official Languages**  
Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French or in none of the official languages of Canada.
- **Knowledge of Non-official Languages**  
Refers to the language or languages, other than English or French, in which the respondent can conduct a conversation.
- **Anglophone**  
Refers to the population with English mother tongue.
- **Francophone**  
Refers to the population with French mother tongue.
- **Allophone**  
Refers to the population with a non-official language as mother tongue.
- **English Speaker**  
Refers to persons who can speak English well enough to conduct a conversation.
- **French Speaker**  
Refers to persons who can speak French well enough to conduct a conversation.
- **Language Group**  
Refers to a population with a common mother tongue.



## **Data Quality**

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This study has used data from the sample file of the 1991 Census, which includes responses for a 20% sample of Canadian households that completed the long form questionnaire. The mother tongue data from this sample are considered to be more accurate than those collected from the entire population, since there are far fewer multiple responses. Evaluations have shown that the number of people with more than one mother tongue is overestimated for the 80% of households completing the short census questionnaire. The use of the 100% mother tongue data for 1991 gives slightly different results in some cases for the 1981-1991 period. However, the direction of most trends is consistent regardless of the data base used. The 1981 mother tongue data used in this study were also taken from the 20% sample.

The 1981 and 1991 data from the sample data base exclude institutional residents. Consequently, the figures for these two census years are lower than they would be with this population included, and not strictly comparable with previous censuses. In the trend analysis, we divided the multiple responses evenly between the languages reported. For example, if a given number of respondents provided English and French as their mother tongue or home language, half were assigned to the English category and half to the French. The same procedure was followed for multiple responses which included a non-official language and an official language.

The 1991 Census included, for the first time, residents of Canada who were not permanent residents. These are people who hold student or employment authorizations, Minister's permits or who are refugee claimants. Prior to 1991, such people were considered foreign residents and were not enumerated. Since many of these people have non-official languages as mother tongue, their inclusion boosts the percentage in this population slightly between 1981 and 1991.





## Appendix Tables

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**Table A.1**  
**Population by Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less**  
**Quebec, 1951-1991**

	Mother tongue						
	Total	English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada							
1951	14,009,429	8,280,809	59.1	4,068,850	29.0	1,659,770	11.8
1961	18,238,247	10,660,534	58.5	5,123,151	28.1	2,454,562	13.5
1971	21,568,310	12,973,810	60.2	5,793,650	26.9	2,800,850	13.0
1981(1)	24,083,505	14,784,810	61.4	6,177,795	25.7	3,120,900	13.0
1991	26,994,040	16,311,210	60.4	6,562,065	24.3	4,120,770	15.3
Newfoundland							
1951	361,416	357,328	98.9	2,321	0.6	1,767	0.5
1961	457,853	451,530	98.6	3,150	0.7	3,173	0.7
1971	522,100	514,520	98.5	3,640	0.7	3,940	0.8
1981(1)	563,745	557,040	98.8	2,580	0.5	4,125	0.7
1991	563,925	555,925	98.6	2,855	0.5	5,140	0.9
Prince Edward Island							
1951	98,429	89,241	90.7	8,477	8.6	711	0.7
1961	104,629	95,564	91.3	7,958	7.6	1,107	1.1
1971	111,645	103,105	92.4	7,360	6.6	1,180	1.1
1981(1)	121,220	114,095	94.1	5,835	4.8	1,295	1.1
1991	128,100	120,770	94.3	5,750	4.5	1,585	1.2

(1) See footnote at end of table.

**Table A.1**  
**Population by Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less**  
**Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Mother tongue						
	Total	English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nova Scotia							
1951	642,584	588,610	91.6	38,945	6.1	15,029	2.3
1961	737,007	680,233	92.3	39,568	5.4	17,206	2.3
1971	788,960	733,555	93.0	39,335	5.0	16,070	2.0
1981(1)	839,800	786,725	93.7	35,385	4.2	17,695	2.1
1991	890,945	831,575	93.3	37,525	4.2	21,845	2.5
New Brunswick							
1951	515,697	325,412	63.1	185,110	35.9	5,175	1.0
1961	597,936	378,633	63.3	210,530	35.2	8,773	1.5
1971	634,560	410,400	64.7	215,725	34.0	8,435	1.3
1981(1)	689,370	448,885	65.1	231,970	33.6	8,515	1.2
1991	716,500	462,875	64.6	243,690	34.0	9,935	1.4
Quebec							
1951	4,055,681	558,256	13.8	3,347,030	82.5	150,395	3.7
1961	5,259,211	697,402	13.3	4,269,689	81.2	292,120	5.6
1971	6,027,765	789,185	13.1	4,867,250	80.7	371,330	6.2
1981(1)	6,369,055	693,600	10.9	5,254,195	82.5	421,265	6.6
1991	6,810,305	626,200	9.2	5,585,650	82.0	598,455	8.8

(1) See footnote at end of table.

Table A.1

**Population by Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Total	Mother tongue					
		English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Ontario							
1951	4,597,542	3,755,442	81.7	341,502	7.4	500,598	10.9
1961	6,236,092	4,834,623	77.5	425,302	6.8	976,167	15.7
1971	7,703,105	5,971,570	77.5	482,045	6.3	1,249,490	16.2
1981(1)	8,534,260	6,611,990	77.5	465,335	5.5	1,456,940	17.1
1991	9,977,055	7,443,540	74.6	503,345	5.0	2,030,170	20.3
Manitoba							
1951	776,541	467,892	60.3	54,199	7.0	254,450	32.8
1961	921,686	584,526	63.4	60,899	6.6	276,261	30.0
1971	988,250	662,720	67.1	60,545	6.1	264,985	26.8
1981(1)	1,013,700	731,500	72.2	51,620	5.1	230,575	22.7
1991	1,079,390	793,325	73.5	50,775	4.7	235,285	21.8
Saskatchewan							
1951	831,728	515,873	62.0	36,815	4.4	279,040	33.5
1961	925,181	638,156	69.0	36,163	3.9	250,862	27.1
1971	926,240	685,920	74.1	31,605	3.4	208,715	22.5
1981(1)	956,445	767,110	80.2	25,090	2.6	164,250	17.2
1991	976,040	812,600	83.3	21,795	2.2	141,645	14.5

(1) See footnote at end of table.

**Table A.1**  
**Population by Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less**  
**Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Mother tongue						
	Total	English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alberta							
1951	939,501	648,413	69.0	34,196	3.6	256,892	27.3
1961	1,331,944	962,319	72.2	42,276	3.2	327,349	24.6
1971	1,627,875	1,263,935	77.6	46,500	2.9	317,440	19.5
1981(1)	2,213,640	1,800,870	81.4	60,605	2.7	352,165	15.9
1991	2,519,185	2,045,905	81.2	56,730	2.3	416,550	16.5
British Columbia							
1951	1,165,210	963,920	82.7	19,366	1.7	181,924	15.6
1961	1,629,082	1,318,498	80.9	26,179	1.6	284,405	17.5
1971	2,184,620	1,807,255	82.7	38,035	1.7	339,330	15.5
1981(1)	2,713,620	2,228,185	82.1	43,415	1.6	442,025	16.3
1991	3,247,495	2,562,240	78.9	51,585	1.6	633,665	19.5
Yukon							
1951	..	..		..		..	
1961	..	..		..		..	
1971	18,390	15,340	83.4	450	2.4	2,600	14.1
1981(1)	23,080	20,185	87.5	530	2.3	2,365	10.2
1991	27,665	24,550	88.7	905	3.3	2,210	8.0

.. Figures not available.

(1) See footnote at end of table.



**Table A.1**  
**Population by Mother Tongue, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less**  
**Quebec, 1951-1991 (Concluded)**

	Mother tongue						
	Total	English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Northwest Territories							
1951	..	..		..		..	
1961	..	..		..		..	
1971	34,805	16,305	46.8	1,160	3.3	17,340	49.8
1981(1)	45,535	24,635	54.1	1,225	2.7	19,675	43.2
1991	57,435	31,705	55.2	1,455	2.5	24,280	42.3
Canada less Quebec							
1951	9,953,748	7,722,553	77.6	721,820	7.3	1,509,375	15.2
1961	12,979,036	9,963,132	76.8	853,462	6.6	2,162,442	16.7
1971	15,540,545	12,184,625	78.4	926,400	6.0	2,429,520	15.6
1981(1)	17,714,450	14,091,215	79.5	923,605	5.2	2,699,635	15.2
1991	20,183,735	15,685,005	77.7	976,415	4.8	3,522,315	17.5

.. Figures not available.

- (1) The 1981 and 1991 figures exclude institutional residents. Comparisons of 1971 and 1981 counts are affected by this exclusion, which represents approximately 1% of the total population.

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue*. 1971 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-725, Table 17.

Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue, Official Language and Home Language*. 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-910, Table 2.

Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue: 20% Sample Data*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-333, Table 1.

**Table A.2**  
**Population by Home Language, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**

	Home language						
	Total	English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada							
1971	21,568,310	14,446,235	67.0	5,546,025	25.7	1,576,050	7.3
1981(1)	24,083,495	16,375,315	68.0	5,919,855	24.6	1,788,325	7.4
1991	26,994,045	18,440,540	68.3	6,288,430	23.3	2,265,075	8.4
Newfoundland							
1971	522,100	517,210	99.1	2,295	0.4	2,595	0.5
1981(1)	563,750	559,390	99.2	1,845	0.3	2,515	0.4
1991	563,935	559,505	99.2	1,340	0.2	3,095	0.5
Prince Edward Island							
1971	111,640	106,795	95.7	4,405	3.9	440	0.4
1981(1)	121,230	117,040	96.5	3,745	3.1	450	0.4
1991	128,105	124,620	97.3	3,050	2.4	440	0.3
Nova Scotia							
1971	788,960	753,725	95.5	27,220	3.5	8,015	1.0
1981(1)	839,800	806,490	96.0	24,435	2.9	8,875	1.1
1991	890,945	858,130	96.3	22,260	2.5	10,555	1.2

(1) See footnote at end of table

**Table A.2**  
**Population by Home Language, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Home language						
	Total	English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
New Brunswick							
1971	634,560	430,720	67.9	199,080	31.4	4,760	0.8
1981(1)	689,380	468,105	67.9	216,745	31.4	4,530	0.7
1991	716,490	488,570	68.2	223,265	31.2	4,660	0.7
Quebec							
1971	6,027,765	887,875	14.7	4,870,100	80.8	269,790	4.5
1981(1)	6,369,075	806,785	12.7	5,253,070	82.5	309,220	4.9
1991	6,810,300	761,815	11.2	5,651,795	83.0	396,695	5.8
Ontario							
1971	7,703,105	6,558,060	85.1	352,465	4.6	792,580	10.3
1981(1)	8,534,270	7,310,060	85.7	333,050	3.9	891,160	10.4
1991	9,977,055	8,499,515	85.2	318,705	3.2	1,158,830	11.6
Manitoba							
1971	988,245	816,560	82.6	39,600	4.0	132,085	13.4
1981(1)	1,013,705	868,295	85.7	31,030	3.1	114,380	11.3
1991	1,079,395	947,090	87.7	25,045	2.3	107,265	9.9

(1) See footnote at end of table

**Table A.2**  
**Population by Home Language, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Total	Home language					
		English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Saskatchewan							
1971	926,240	832,515	89.9	15,930	1.7	77,795	8.4
1981(1)	956,435	884,760	92.5	10,295	1.1	61,380	6.4
1991	976,030	921,085	94.4	7,155	0.7	47,790	4.9
Alberta							
1971	1,627,870	1,477,960	90.8	22,700	1.4	127,210	7.8
1981(1)	2,213,645	2,024,090	91.4	29,690	1.3	159,860	7.2
1991	2,519,180	2,305,200	91.5	20,180	0.8	193,800	7.7
British Columbia							
1971	2,184,620	2,027,120	92.8	11,505	0.5	145,995	6.7
1981(1)	2,713,620	2,479,555	91.4	15,090	0.6	218,980	8.1
1991	3,247,495	2,909,930	89.6	14,555	0.4	323,010	9.9
Yukon							
1971	18,395	17,470	95.0	135	0.7	790	4.3
1981(1)	23,075	22,075	95.7	240	1.0	760	3.3
1991	27,645	26,735	96.7	390	1.4	520	1.9

(1) See footnote at end of table

**Table A.2**  
**Population by Home Language, Canada, Provinces, Territories and Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Concluded)**

	Total	Home language					
		English		French		Non-official languages	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Northwest Territories							
1971	34,800	20,225	58.1	585	1.7	13,990	40.2
1981(1)	45,535	28,670	63.0	630	1.4	16,235	35.7
1991	57,435	38,355	66.8	680	1.2	18,400	32.0
Canada less Quebec							
1971	15,540,545	13,558,360	87.2	675,925	4.3	1,306,260	8.4
1981(1)	17,714,420	15,568,530	87.9	666,785	3.8	1,479,105	8.3
1991	20,183,745	17,678,730	87.6	636,640	3.2	1,868,380	9.3

(1) The 1981 and 1991 figures exclude institutional residents. Comparisons of 1971 and 1981 counts are affected by this exclusion, which represents approximately 1% of the total population.

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Official Language and Language Most Often Spoken at Home*. 1971 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-726, Table 26.

Statistics Canada, *Mother Tongue, Official Language and Home Language*. 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-910, Table 2.

Statistics Canada, *Home Language and Mother Tongue*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-317, Table 1.

**Table A.3**  
**Population by Knowledge of Official Languages, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991**

	Knowledge of official languages								
	Total	English only		French only		English and French		Neither English nor French	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada									
1951	14,009,429	9,387,395	67.0	2,741,812	19.6	1,727,447	12.3	152,775	1.1
1961	18,238,247	12,284,762	67.4	3,489,866	19.1	2,231,172	12.2	232,447	1.3
1971	21,568,310	14,469,540	67.1	3,879,255	18.0	2,900,155	13.4	319,360	1.5
1981(1)	24,083,495	16,122,895	66.9	3,987,245	16.6	3,681,960	15.3	291,395	1.2
1991	26,994,035	18,106,760	67.1	4,110,300	15.2	4,398,655	16.3	378,320	1.4
Newfoundland									
1951	361,416	356,377	98.6	153	0.0	3,990	1.1	896	0.2
1961	457,853	450,945	98.5	522	0.1	5,299	1.2	1,087	0.2
1971	522,105	511,620	98.0	510	0.1	9,350	1.8	625	0.1
1981(1)	563,750	550,335	97.6	145	0.0	12,840	2.3	430	0.1
1991	563,940	544,425	96.5	240	0.0	18,495	3.3	780	0.1
Prince Edward Island									
1951	98,429	88,743	90.2	914	0.9	8,745	8.9	27	0.0
1961	104,629	95,296	91.1	1,219	1.2	7,938	7.6	176	0.2
1971	111,640	101,820	91.2	680	0.6	9,110	8.2	30	0.0
1981(1)	121,225	111,200	91.7	205	0.2	9,780	8.1	40	0.0
1991	128,095	114,795	89.6	270	0.2	12,950	10.1	80	0.1

(1) See footnote at end of table



**Table A.3**  
**Population by Knowledge of Official Languages, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Knowledge of official languages								
	Total	English only		French only		English and French		Neither English nor French	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nova Scotia									
1951	642,584	595,257	92.6	7,462	1.2	39,524	6.2	341	0.0
1961	737,007	684,805	92.9	5,938	0.8	44,987	6.1	1,277	0.2
1971	788,955	730,700	92.6	4,185	0.5	53,035	6.7	1,035	0.1
1981(1)	839,795	774,760	92.3	1,880	0.2	62,350	7.4	805	0.1
1991	890,945	811,870	91.1	1,580	0.2	76,465	8.6	1,030	0.1
New Brunswick									
1951	515,697	318,560	61.8	100,712	19.5	96,095	18.6	330	0.1
1961	597,936	370,922	62.0	112,054	18.7	113,495	19.0	1,465	0.2
1971	634,555	396,855	62.5	100,985	15.9	136,115	21.5	600	0.1
1981(1)	689,370	417,025	60.5	89,340	13.0	182,550	26.5	455	0.1
1991	716,495	414,955	57.9	89,500	12.5	211,525	29.5	515	0.1
Quebec									
1951	4,055,681	462,813	11.4	2,534,242	62.5	1,038,130	25.6	20,496	0.5
1961	5,259,211	608,635	11.6	3,254,850	61.9	1,338,878	25.5	56,848	1.1
1971	6,027,765	632,515	10.5	3,668,015	60.9	1,663,790	27.6	63,445	1.1
1981(1)	6,369,065	426,240	6.7	3,826,605	60.1	2,065,105	32.4	51,115	0.8
1991	6,810,300	373,755	5.5	3,958,930	58.1	2,412,985	35.4	64,630	0.9

(1) See footnote at end of table

**Table A.3**  
**Population by Knowledge of Official Languages, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Knowledge of official languages								
	Total	English only		French only		English and French		Neither English nor French	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Ontario									
1951	4,597,542	4,115,584	89.5	78,974	1.7	359,965	7.8	43,019	0.9
1961	6,236,092	5,548,766	89.0	95,236	1.5	493,270	7.9	98,820	1.6
1971	7,703,100	6,724,100	87.3	92,845	1.2	716,065	9.3	170,090	2.2
1981(1)	8,534,265	7,401,070	86.7	60,535	0.7	924,475	10.8	148,185	1.7
1991	9,977,055	8,593,635	86.1	54,245	0.5	1,136,245	11.4	192,930	1.9
Manitoba									
1951	776,541	685,914	88.3	7,869	1.0	58,441	7.5	24,317	3.1
1961	921,686	825,955	89.6	7,954	0.9	68,368	7.4	19,409	2.1
1971	988,255	881,715	89.2	5,020	0.5	80,935	8.2	20,585	2.1
1981(1)	1,013,710	915,760	90.3	2,620	0.3	79,990	7.9	15,340	1.5
1991	1,079,390	965,100	89.4	1,905	0.2	98,800	9.2	13,585	1.3
Saskatchewan									
1951	831,728	767,248	92.2	4,656	0.6	40,789	4.9	19,035	2.3
1961	925,181	865,821	93.6	3,853	0.4	42,074	4.5	13,433	1.5
1971	926,235	867,315	93.6	1,825	0.2	45,985	5.0	11,110	1.2
1981(1)	956,435	904,900	94.6	705	0.1	43,650	4.6	7,180	0.8
1991	976,035	919,070	94.2	450	0.0	50,800	5.2	5,715	0.6

(1) See footnote at end of table

**Table A.3**  
**Population by Knowledge of Official Languages, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Continued)**

	Knowledge of official languages								
	Total	English only		French only		English and French		Neither English nor French	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alberta									
1951	939,501	868,696	92.5	5,922	0.6	40,785	4.3	24,098	2.6
1961	1,331,944	1,253,824	94.1	5,534	0.4	56,920	4.3	15,666	1.2
1971	1,627,875	1,525,575	93.7	3,310	0.2	81,000	5.0	17,990	1.1
1981(1)	2,213,650	2,045,060	92.4	3,700	0.2	142,465	6.4	22,425	1.0
1991	2,519,180	2,318,935	92.1	1,940	0.1	167,155	6.6	31,150	1.2
British Columbia									
1951	1,165,210	1,112,937	95.5	727	0.1	39,433	3.4	12,113	1.0
1961	1,629,082	1,552,560	95.3	2,559	0.2	57,504	3.5	16,459	1.0
1971	2,184,625	2,054,690	94.1	1,775	0.1	101,435	4.6	26,725	1.2
1981(1)	2,713,615	2,518,965	92.8	1,445	0.0	154,170	5.7	39,035	1.4
1991	3,247,510	2,976,330	91.6	1,140	0.0	207,175	6.4	62,865	1.9
Yukon									
1951	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.		N.A.	
1961	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.		N.A.	
1971	18,390	17,130	93.1	10	0.0	1,210	6.6	40	0.2
1981(1)	23,075	21,200	91.9	10	0.0	1,820	7.9	45	0.2
1991	27,655	25,035	90.5	25	0.1	2,570	9.3	25	0.1

(1) See footnote at end of table

**Table A.3**  
**Population by Knowledge of Official Languages, Canada, Provinces, Territories and**  
**Canada Less Quebec, 1951-1991 (Concluded)**

	Knowledge of official languages									
	Total	English only		French only		English and French		Neither English nor French		
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Northwest Territories										
1951	N.A.	N.A.			N.A.		N.A.		N.A.	
1961	N.A.	N.A.			N.A.		N.A.		N.A.	
1971	34,805	25,500	73.3		100	0.3	2,120	6.1	7,085	20.4
1981(1)	45,545	36,385	79.9		60	0.1	2,755	6.0	6,345	13.9
1991	57,435	48,855	85.1		80	0.1	3,495	6.1	5,005	8.7
Canada less Quebec										
1951	9,953,748	8,924,582	89.7		207,570	2.1	689,317	6.9	132,279	1.3
1961	12,979,036	11,676,127	90.0		235,016	1.8	892,294	6.9	175,599	1.4
1971	15,540,545	13,837,025	89.0		211,240	1.4	1,236,365	8.0	255,915	1.6
1981(1)	17,714,430	15,696,655	88.6		160,640	0.9	1,616,855	9.1	240,280	1.4
1991	20,183,735	17,733,005	87.9		151,370	0.7	1,985,670	9.8	313,690	1.6

- (1) The 1981 and 1991 figures exclude institutional residents. Comparisons of 1971 and 1981 counts are affected by this exclusion, which represents approximately 1% of the total population.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 1961 Census of Canada, *Population*. Vol. 1, Part 2, Table 63.

Statistics Canada, *Official Language and Language Most Often Spoken at Home*. 1981 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 92-726, Table 26.

Statistics Canada, *Knowledge of Languages*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-318, Table 1.











# Languages in Canada

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